

A Large-Scale Multi-ancestry Genome-wide Study Accounting for Smoking Behavior Identifies Multiple Significant Loci for Blood Pressure

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Genome-wide association analysis advanced understanding of blood pressure (BP), a major risk factor for vascular conditions such as coronary heart disease and stroke. Accounting for smoking behavior may help identify BP loci and extend our knowledge of its genetic architecture. We performed genome-wide association meta-analyses of systolic and diastolic BP incorporating gene-smoking interactions in 610,091 individuals. Stage 1 analysis examined ~18.8 million SNPs and small insertion/deletion variants in 129,913 individuals from four ancestries (European, African, Asian, and Hispanic) with follow-up analysis of promising variants in 480,178 additional individuals from five ancestries. We identified 15 loci that were genome-wide significant ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) in stage 1 and formally replicated in stage 2. A combined stage 1 and 2 meta-analysis identified 66 additional genome-wide significant loci (13, 35, and 18 loci in European, African, and trans-ancestry, respectively). A total of 56 known BP loci were also identified by our results ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$). Of the newly identified loci, ten showed significant interaction with smoking status, but none of them were replicated in stage 2. Several loci were identified in African ancestry, highlighting the importance of genetic studies in diverse populations. The identified loci show strong evidence for regulatory features and support shared pathophysiology with cardiometabolic and addiction traits. They also highlight a role in BP regulation for biological candidates such as modulators of vascular structure and function (*CDKN1B*, *BCAR1-CFDPI1*, *PXDN*, *EEA1*), ciliopathies (*SDCCAG8*, *RPGRIP1L*), telomere maintenance (*TNKS*, *PINX1*, *AKTIP*), and central dopaminergic signaling (*MSRA*, *EBF2*).

Introduction

The management of blood pressure (BP) is a major public health priority with implications for the prevention of coronary heart disease, heart failure, stroke, and other

vascular conditions. BP is partly under genetic control with moderately high heritability (30%–60%),¹ although only a small fraction of the heritability has been explained by variants identified through genome-wide association studies (GWASs).² Specifically, the common variants

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initially identified through three collaborative consortia for genome-wide BP genetics in people of European ancestry^{1,3,4} explain less than 2.5% of the variance in systolic BP (SBP) or diastolic BP (DBP).⁴ Recent reports based on larger sample sizes have increased the number of BP-associated variants which together explain about 3.5% of BP variance.^{5–7} In contrast, only six BP loci have been identified by GWASs in African ancestry which explain less than 0.54% of BP variance.^{8,9} A focus on main effects to the exclusion of interactions in these studies may have limited the discovery of a full complement of genetic influences on BP. In particular, incorporating interactions between genetic variants and environmental exposures (GxE) represents an additional route for discovery of genetic effects on complex traits,¹⁰ including BP, and may more generally extend our knowledge of the genetic architecture of complex traits.¹¹

Many lifestyle factors including physical activity, tobacco use, alcohol consumption, stress, and dietary factors influence BP.¹² These lifestyle exposures may also modify the effect of genetic variants on BP. Cigarette smoking is known to influence BP in both acute¹³ and chronic^{14,15} fashion, motivating genetic association studies accounting for potential gene-by-smoking interactions. This may help identify BP loci, and such BP loci driven by GxE interactions may reveal new biological insights and mechanisms that can be explored for treatment or prevention of hypertension.

The recently established Gene-Lifestyle Interactions Working Group within the Cohorts for Heart and Aging Research in Genomic Epidemiology (CHARGE) Consortium has designed a series of multi-ancestry genome-wide interaction projects focused on assessing the impact of interactions with multiple lifestyle factors on the genetics of cardiovascular traits.¹⁶ The primary goal of these investigations is to use interactions to identify trait loci that act synergistically with lifestyle factors. Large-scale interaction studies like this one represent “an important milestone on the path toward a far more complete understanding of the origins of cardiovascular disease and a better understanding of how to manage it.”¹⁷ Within this setting, we performed a genome-wide association meta-analysis incorporating

gene-smoking interactions (overview shown in [Figure 1](#)) to identify SBP- and DBP-associated loci and understand the modulating role of cigarette smoking in the genetic architecture of BP. Here we report our findings based on a total of 610,091 individuals from five ancestry groups which provide adequate power for discovery.¹⁶

Material and Methods

Overview of Participating Studies

Men and women between the ages of 18 and 80 years from five self-reported ancestry groups are represented in this study: European (EUR), African (AFR), Asian (ASN), Hispanic (HIS), and Brazilian admixed (BRA). These participating studies are described in the [Supplemental Note](#). Each study obtained informed consent from participants and approval from the appropriate institutional review boards. Although the participating studies are based on different study designs and populations, all of them have data on BP, smoking, and genotypes across the genome (data imputed using the 1000 Genomes reference panel in most cohorts). In total, this study involves two stages comprising 610,091 individuals.

A total of 48 cohorts participated in stage 1 and performed genome-wide interaction analyses ([Table S1](#)). This stage included 80,552 EUR, 27,118 AFR, 13,438 ASN, and 8,805 HIS for an overall total of 129,913 individuals. A total of 76 cohorts participated in stage 2 and performed analyses of 4,459 variants that were identified in stage 1 as either genome-wide significant ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) or suggestive ($p < 10^{-6}$) for any of the BP-smoking combinations for either 1 df or 2 df tests ([Table S2](#)). This stage included 305,513 EUR, 7,786 AFR, 148,932 ASN, 13,533 HIS, and 4,414 Brazilian admixed (BRA) individuals to a total of 480,178 individuals in stage 2. Since discoveries to date are largely from EUR populations, we optimized the chances of discovery in non-EUR populations (especially in AFR) by recruiting most of the available non-EUR cohorts into stage 1.

Phenotypes and Lifestyle Variables

The two BP traits, resting SBP (mmHg) and DBP (mmHg), were analyzed separately. For individuals taking any anti-hypertensive (BP-lowering) medications, their SBP and DBP values were first adjusted for medication effects by adding 15 mmHg to SBP and adding 10 mmHg to DBP.³ Summary statistics are shown in [Table 1](#) (more details in [Tables S3](#) and [S4](#)). These

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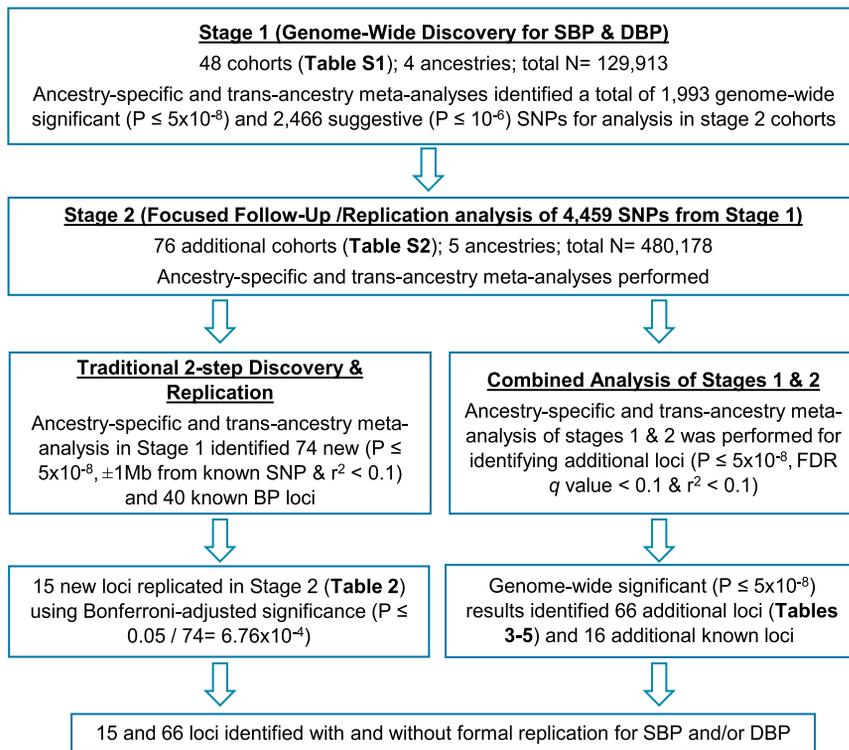


Figure 1. Study Design and Overall Workflow

Stage 1 analysis identified 74 significant novel loci, of which 15 were replicated in stage 2. Replication in stage 2 was hampered by limited sample sizes for African and Hispanic ancestries. Combined analysis leverages the full power of stages 1 and 2, identifying 66 additional BP loci missed by the 2-step approach which were validated by FDR. Association analyses were performed for each of SBP and DBP, accounting for two smoking exposure variables, “current smoking” status (CurSmk) and “ever smoking” status (EverSmk). For each ancestry, cohort-specific results were combined to perform the 1 degree of freedom (df) test of the interaction effect and the 2 df joint test of genetic main and interaction effects.

Cohort-Specific GWAS Analysis

For SBP and DBP separately, each study performed association analyses accounting for two smoking exposure variables, current smoking (CurSmk) and ever smoking (EverSmk). In stage 1, we considered two models to account for gene-smoking

interactions. For the first “joint” model, a regression model including both genetic main and GxE interaction effects,

$$E[Y | G, C] = \beta_0 + \beta_E Smk + \beta_G G + \beta_{GE} Smk * G + \beta_C C$$

was applied to the entire sample. For the second “stratified” model, analyses of the genetic main-effect regression models

$$E[Y | C, Smk = 0] = \gamma_0^{(0)} + \gamma_G^{(0)} G + \gamma_C^{(0)} C$$

$$E[Y | C, Smk = 1] = \gamma_0^{(1)} + \gamma_G^{(1)} G + \gamma_C^{(1)} C$$

were applied separately to the Smk = 0 unexposed group and to the Smk = 1 exposed group (smokers). *Y* is the medication-adjusted BP value, *Smk* is the smoking variable (with 0/1 coding for the absence/presence of the smoking exposure), *G* is the dosage of the imputed genetic variant coded additively (from 0 to 2), and *C* is the vector of all other covariates, which include age, sex, field center (for multi-center studies), and principal component (PC) (to account for population stratification and admixture). No additional cohort-specific covariates were included. Our previous work showed that the two (joint and stratified) models provided highly similar inference.¹⁹ Therefore, we considered only the first “joint” model in stage 2.

Each study in stage 1 performed GWAS analysis within each ancestry and provided (1) the estimated genetic main effect β_G , estimated interaction effect β_{GE} , and a robust estimate of the corresponding covariance matrix under the joint model; and (2) estimates of the stratum-specific effects $\gamma_G^{(0)}$, $\gamma_G^{(1)}$ and robust estimates of their standard errors (SE) under the stratified model. Each study in stage 2 provided estimates of the genetic main effect β_G , the interaction effect β_{GE} , and robust estimates of the corresponding covariance matrix under the joint model at 4,459 select variants. Robust estimates of covariance matrices and SEs were used to

medication-adjusted BP variables were approximately normally distributed, as shown in Table S5 and Figure S1. In addition, to reduce the influence of possible outliers, winsorizing has been applied for each BP value that was more than six standard deviations away from the mean.

The participating cohorts have varying levels of information on smoking, some with a simple binary variable and others (such as UK Biobank) with more precise data. We considered two dichotomized smoking variables, “current smoking” status (CurSmk) and “ever smoking” status (EverSmk), as they were the most widely available information (Table 1). Current smoking status was coded as 1 if the subject smoked regularly in past year (and as 0 for non-current smokers, which includes both never and former smokers). Ever smoking status was coded as 1 if the subject smoked at least 100 cigarettes during his/her lifetime (and as 0 for the never-smokers). Smoking status was assessed at the time of the BP measurements. When subjects had multiple smoking measures that were inconsistent, they were excluded from analysis. Subjects with missing data for BP, the smoking variable, or any covariates were excluded from analysis.

Genotype Data

Genotyping was performed using Illumina or Affymetrix genotyping arrays. Each study performed imputation to impute genotypes for SNPs, short insertions and deletions (indels), and larger deletions that were not genotyped directly but are available from the 1000 Genomes Project.¹⁸ Information on genotype and imputation for each study is presented in Tables S6 and S7. For imputation, most studies used the 1000 Genomes Project Phase I Integrated Release Version 3 Haplotypes (2010-11 data freeze, 2012-03-14 haplotypes), which contain haplotypes of 1,092 individuals of all ethnic backgrounds.

Table 1. Basic Characteristics of Cohorts in Stages 1 and 2 in Each Ancestry

	Current Smoker		Former Smoker		Never Smoker		% Male	% HT	% HT Meds	Age		SBP		DBP	
	N	%	N	%	N	%				Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Stage 1															
EUR	14,607	18.1	28,409	35.3	37,535	46.6	32.6	38.2	25.4	54.63	8.0	129.31	19.2	77.29	11.2
AFR	5,545	21.5	7,185	27.8	13,121	50.8	26.5	55.9	39.5	54.49	9.1	136.39	22.8	81.75	12.8
ASN	2,465	18.3	1,677	12.5	9,296	69.2	51.2	46.9	27.0	55.42	9.7	137.29	21.5	79.41	11.1
HIS	1,068	12.1	2,160	24.5	5,577	63.3	24.9	43.5	13.3	55.50	11.0	130.50	22.0	76.95	11.8
Stage 1 Total	23,685	18.4	39,431	30.7	65,529	50.9	32.8	43.1	27.7	54.74	8.6	131.69	20.4	78.42	11.6
Stage 2															
EUR	48,198	17.0	89,597	31.6	145,914	51.4	47.8	44.8	25.0	55.91	8.6	139.02	20.4	83.76	11.5
AFR	1,971	29.8	1,579	23.8	3,075	46.4	40.9	54.3	42.8	53.66	10.2	137.00	21.6	83.32	12.8
ASN	29,485	19.8	40,850	27.4	78,597	52.8	54.9	50.3	33.1	60.76	12.3	134.92	20.2	80.01	12.3
HIS	2,739	20.3	2,559	18.9	8,231	60.8	41.0	26.9	16.3	45.86	13.8	124.08	20.0	75.09	11.9
BRZ	998	22.6	514	11.6	2,902	65.8	48.0	15.5	6.3	27.78	3.2	119.91	16.0	74.68	11.5
Stage 2 Total	83,391	18.2	135,099	29.6	238,719	52.2	49.7	45.9	27.4	56.84	9.9	137.12	20.3	82.26	11.8
TOTAL	107,076	18.3	174,530	29.8	304,248	51.9	46.1	45.3	27.4	56.40	9.6	135.96	20.3	81.44	11.7

The cell entries for the covariates and BP traits correspond to sample-size weighted averages across all cohorts in each category.

safeguard against both mis-specification of the mean model and violation of the assumption of constant BP variance across smoking groups (heteroscedasticity).^{20,21} Association analysis was performed using various software (Tables S6 and S7). To obtain robust estimates of covariance matrices and robust SEs, studies of unrelated subjects used either the R package sandwich²² or ProbABEL.²³ To account for relatedness in families, family studies used either the generalized estimating equations (GEE) approach, treating each family as a cluster, or the linear mixed effect model approach with a random polygenic component (for which the covariance matrix depends on the kinship matrix).

Quality Control

Study investigators participating in this study have ample experience in main-effect-based GWASs for multiple phenotypes and are very familiar with validated approaches for quality control (QC) of phenotype, genotype, and imputed data. For example, cohort-level analyses used PCs as covariates to deal with population structure; family studies used suitable software packages to deal with relatedness (Table S6). Overlap among some of the participating cohorts is a potential possibility. However, when there was known overlap of samples across cohorts, one of the cohorts used a non-overlapping sub-sample for their analysis.

We performed extensive QC using the R package EasyQC²⁴ for all cohort-specific GWAS results. In stage 1, each cohort provided 12 GWAS result files (2 BPs × 2 smoking exposures × 3 analyses, 1 for model 1 and 2 for model 2) for each ancestry group. Each GWAS result file included approximately 8–15 million high-quality variants (depending on ancestry), as cohorts applied a preliminary filter on their imputed data excluding variants with minor allele frequency (MAF) < 1% or imputation quality measure < 0.1. We performed two QC levels: “study-level” and “meta-level.” To identify problems with population substructures or relatedness, we have examined QQ plots and genomic control inflation factors

(lambdas) on a study-by-study level (to identify study-specific issues) as well as on the meta-analysis result (to identify cross-study issues). Because GWASs were performed within each ancestry, the “study-level” QC also carefully checked the provided allele frequencies against the retrospective ancestry-specific 1000 Genomes reference panel. Finally, marker names were harmonized to ensure consistencies across cohorts. In addition, we contrasted results from the joint model and stratified models in stage 1 cohorts, as explained elsewhere.¹⁹ The “meta-level” QC reviewed result files of a specific analysis (e.g., SBP-CurSmk-Model1) across all cohorts: this included (1) visually comparing summary statistics (mean, median, standard deviation, inter-quartile range, minimum, maximum) on all effect estimates standard errors (SEs) and p values and (2) examining SE-N and QQ plots to reveal issues with trait transformation²⁴ or other analytical problems. Any problems found during QC steps, including major differences from the ancestry-specific reference panel and any inflation of lambdas within studies, were communicated and resolved with the individual cohorts. Similar QC steps were applied to cohort-specific results in stage 2. More detailed information about the QC steps, including major QC problems encountered and how they were resolved, are described elsewhere.¹⁶

The most crucial filter during the meta-analysis was approximate $df = \min(MAC0, MAC1) * \text{imputation quality measure}$; this is based on the minor allele count (MAC) in each stratum (MAC0 and MAC1) and imputation quality measure, where $MAC0 = 2 * MAF_{E0} * N_{E0}$ for the unexposed group (with MAF_{E0} and sample size N_{E0} for $E = 0$ stratum) and $MAC1 = 2 * MAF_{E1} * N_{E1}$ for the exposed group. In meta-analysis, to exclude unstable cohort-specific results that reflect small sample size, low MAF, or low imputation quality measures, variants were excluded if approximate $df < 20$. This filtering threshold was decided after considering various thresholds and examining the resulting QQ and Manhattan plots. More details are provided in the [Supplemental Note](#). Variants were further excluded if imputation quality

measure < 0.5 . This value of 0.5 was used regardless of the software used for imputation, because imputation quality measures are shown to be similar across imputation software.²⁵

Meta-analysis

After conducting extensive quality control and selecting high-quality variants, approximately 18.8 million SNPs and small insertion and deletion (indels) variants were included in the meta-analysis (the number of variants varied across the ancestry groups). We performed meta-analysis using both models in stage 1 and using the joint model in stage 2. For both stages, we performed meta-analysis using the 1 degree of freedom (df) test of interaction effect and 2 df tests of testing both SNP main and interaction effects. Wald test statistics approximately follow either a chi-square distribution with 1 df under $H_0: \beta_{GE} = 0$ for the 1 df test or a chi-square distribution with 2 df under $H_0: \beta_G = \beta_{GE} = 0$, for the 2 df test. In the joint model, inverse-variance weighted meta-analysis was performed for the 1 df test and the joint meta-analysis of Manning et al.²⁶ for the 2 df test, both using METAL.²⁷ In the stratified model, we performed meta-analysis using the approach of Randall et al.²⁸ for the 1 df test and the approach of Aschard et al.²⁹ for the 2 df test. Both tests in the stratified model were computed using the R package EasyStrata.³⁰ More details are described elsewhere.¹⁹

Ancestry-specific meta-analyses using inverse-variance weighting were performed to combine cohort-specific results within each ancestry. The ancestry-specific results were then combined through meta-analysis to obtain evidence of “trans-ancestry” association. In stage 1, 80 separate genome-wide meta-analyses were performed: 2 BPs \times 2 smoking exposures \times 4 (2 tests in the joint model, 2 stratified groups in the stratified model) \times 5 ancestries (4 ancestry-specific and 1 trans-ancestry to combine ancestry-specific results). In this stage, genomic control correction³¹ was applied twice, first for cohort-specific GWAS results if their genomic control lambda value was greater than 1, and again after the meta-analysis results. Variants were excluded if they were represented by valid data in fewer than 5,000 samples and 3 cohorts. Variants that were genome-wide significant ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) or suggestive ($p < 1 \times 10^{-6}$) in any of stage 1 analyses were pursued for stage 2 analysis. In stage 2, 48 separate meta-analyses were performed using the joint model: 2 BPs \times 2 smoking exposures \times 2 (2 tests; 1 df and 2 df tests) \times 6 ancestries (5 ancestry-specific and 1 trans-ancestry to combine ancestry-specific results). Genomic control correction was not applied to the replication statistics as association analysis was performed only at select variants. Similarly, 48 separate meta-analyses were performed to combine stages 1 and 2 results.

Genome-wide Significant Variants

If a variant reached genome-wide significance ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) through any of these 48 combined association meta-analyses (which are not independent), then the variant was considered as genome-wide significant. To identify a set of independent (index) variants through ancestry-specific and trans-ancestry analysis, we performed the linkage disequilibrium (LD)-based clumping procedure using PLINK³² and EasyStrata.³⁰ A locus is defined through LD-based clumping that uses both physical distance (± 1 Mb) and LD threshold of $r^2 > 0.1$. Since valid methods do not exist for conditional analysis involving interactions across multi-ancestry studies, we relied on a relatively more stringent LD threshold ($r^2 > 0.1$) for identifying “independent” loci. As

LD reference, ancestry-specific 1000 Genomes Project data were used for ancestry-specific results and the entire cosmopolitan dataset was used for trans-ancestry results. False discovery rate (FDR) q-values were computed using the R function `p.adjust` using the step-up method by Benjamini and Hochberg.³³

BP Variance Explained

Since variants weakly correlated with index variants ($0.1 \leq r^2 \leq 0.2$) can contribute to the percent variance, for the purposes of calculating percent variance, we carried out clumping using slightly less conservative LD threshold ($r^2 > 0.2$ instead of > 0.1). The percent of variance explained in SBP and DBP by all previously known (158) and newly identified (132 using LD threshold of > 0.2 for clumping) variants was evaluated in several studies from multiple ancestries (see Table S8). BP variants previously identified in any ancestry were considered as “known” variants. Similarly, we considered all index variants representing previously unreported loci as “novel” for this purpose regardless of which ancestry they were identified in; separate interaction terms were included for newly identified variants. Known and newly identified variants (combined from all ancestries) were used in assessing the percent variance.

Percent variance was calculated using standard regression models. Four nested models were considered. The first model included the smoking variables and standard covariates (age, sex, PCs, etc.); the second model included those covariates and all known variants; the third model contained all those previous variables and all newly identified variants (excluding any interaction terms); finally, the fourth model contained all those (covariates, known, and novel) plus the interaction terms. Each of SBP and DBP was regressed on the relevant predictors in each of the four models. The r^2 values obtained from the regressions were used as measures of the percent variance explained by the respective models. Through sequential subtraction of appropriate r^2 values, we determined the “additional” percent variance explained by a given set of variants. For studies with $N < 20,000$, we used a stepwise regression procedure with significance tests for inclusion of one variant at a time and for backward elimination of redundant variants.

Functional Inference

Variant Effect Predictor (VEP) from Ensembl was used to obtain the gene name for each locus. For the variants whose gene names were not identified by VEP, NCBI SNP database was used to obtain the closest gene. We applied several computational strategies to infer biological functions associated with our newly identified loci. We used HaploReg, RegulomeDB, and GTEx³⁴ to obtain annotations of the noncoding genome, chromatin state, and protein binding annotation from the Roadmap Epigenomics and ENCODE projects, sequence conservation across mammals, and the effect of SNPs on expression from eQTL studies. To further assess putative functionality for the new loci, we searched for *cis* associations between new variants and gene transcripts using previously published eQTL analyses, which includes the GTEx.³⁴

Further eQTL evidence was queried using the eQTL database of Joehanes et al.³⁵ for transcripts associated in both *cis* and *trans* in more than 5,000 individuals from the Framingham Heart Study, with genome-wide false discovery rate (FDR) < 0.05 . Two gene-set enrichment analysis (GSEA) queries were then performed on December 23, 2016 to determine the enrichment of biological

processes and disease pathways of the resulting transcripts. Prior to the queries, duplicated gene names and genes with provisional names (such as LOCXXX) were removed. Then, for each transcript probe associated with more than one gene name, only the first gene name was taken. This process yielded 127 gene names for the GSEA query. For querying biological processes, option C5:BP was selected on the GSEA website. For querying disease pathway, option C2:CP was selected. Both GSEA queries were set at FDR < 0.05 threshold to guard against multiple comparison errors.

Pathway and Gene Set Enrichment Analysis

We conducted four separate DEPICT analyses based on the following criteria that were applied to our combined association meta-analysis results. We utilized variants showing genome-wide significant joint effect association with (1) SBP in Europeans ($P_{EUR,SBP} < 5 \times 10^{-8}$), (2) DBP in Europeans ($P_{EUR,DBP} < 5 \times 10^{-8}$), (3) SBP in *trans*-ancestry analysis ($P_{Trans,SBP} < 5 \times 10^{-8}$), or (4) DBP in *trans*-ancestry analysis ($P_{Trans,DBP} < 5 \times 10^{-8}$). For each combination, DEPICT first performed the following steps to obtain the input of the prioritization and enrichment analyses: non-overlapping regions lists of independent variants were obtained using 500 kb flanking regions and LD $r^2 > 0.1$ using the 1000 Genomes data,¹⁸ resulting variants were merged with overlapping genes ($r^2 > 0.5$ with a functional coding variant within the gene or *cis*-acting regulatory variant), and the major histocompatibility complex region on chromosome 6 (base position 25,000,000–35,000,000) was excluded.

DEPICT prioritized genes at the associated loci based on their functional similarity. Functional similarity of genes across associated loci was quantified by computing a gene score that was adjusted for bias through confounders such as gene length. Experiment-wide FDR for the gene prioritization was obtained by repeating the scoring step 50 times based on lead variants from 500 pre-compiled null GWASs. For the gene-set enrichment analyses, DEPICT utilized a total of 14,461 pre-compiled reconstituted gene sets comprising 737 Reactome database pathways, 2,473 phenotypic gene sets (derived from the Mouse Genetics Initiative), 184 Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) database pathways, 5,083 Gene Ontology database terms, and 5,984 protein molecular pathways (derived from protein-protein interactions). For the tissue and cell type enrichment analyses, DEPICT tested whether genes harboring associated loci are enriched for expression in any of the 209 MeSH annotations for 37,427 microarrays of the Affymetrix U133 Plus 2.0 Array platform.

To further identify connected gene sets and pathways implicated by our findings, we performed GeneGO analysis and text data mining using Literature Lab.³⁶ GeneGO (known also as MetaCore) evaluates p values for pathways by mapping a list of target genes to each pathway and comparing those that arise by chance using a hypergeometric distribution formula. GeneGO implements a correction of p values using a false discovery rate. Literature Lab of Acumenta evaluates co-occurrences in the publication records of a list of genes and biological and biochemical terms. The analysis compares the gene input set against the average of 1,000 randomly generated similar size sets, providing a spectrum of statistically significant associations. Our Literature Lab analysis included the use of 17,261,987 PubMed abstracts, out of which 10,091,778 abstracts include one or more human genes.

Results

Study Overview

We performed the traditional 2-step approach with discovery in stage 1 followed by formal replication in stage 2. Because this study was not optimally designed for replications in non-EUR (especially in AFR) ancestry, to identify additional loci, we performed combined analysis of stages 1 and 2 to maximize power for discovery³⁷ (Figure 1). For the 2-step approach, we performed ancestry-specific meta-analysis in each of five ancestries and trans-ancestry analysis in stage 2. We checked whether each of the genome-wide significant loci in stage 1 was replicated in stage 2 using Bonferroni-adjusted significance level (0.05/74, see details below). For the combined analysis, we performed ancestry-specific meta-analysis combining both stages 1 and 2 (discovery and follow-up) in each of 5 ancestries; these ancestry-specific meta-analyses results were then combined to perform trans-ancestry analysis at 4,459 variants using a total of up to 610,091 individuals.

Two-Step Approach of Discovery Followed by Replication

Of the 4,459 significant or suggestive variants selected from stage 1 meta-analyses, 3,222 were replicated in stage 2 with $p < 0.05/4,459$ (to an aggregate replication rate of 72.3%). Of the 1,993 variants that were genome-wide significant ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) in stage 1 analysis, 1,836 were replicated in stage 2 with $p < 0.05/1,993$ to a replication rate of 92.1%. These 1,993 genome-wide significant variants in stage 1 belong to 114 independent loci. Of the 114 loci, 40 loci (consisting of 1,644 variants) contain previously published BP variants.^{1,3–7} Of the remaining 74 newly identified loci (consisting of 349 variants), 15 loci were formally replicated in stage 2 using Bonferroni-adjusted significance level ($p < 0.05/74$) (Table 2); all 15 novel loci were replicated even when using the more conservative adjustment threshold $p < 0.05/349$. In addition, 25 more of the remaining 59 loci were nominally replicated ($p < 0.05$) in one or more of the analyses in stage 2 ($p < 0.05$), and 27 more showed the same direction of effect in stages 1 and 2. For 7 loci, no additional data were available in stage 2 and, therefore, it was not possible to check for replication. For the 15 formally replicated loci, estimates of the genetic main effects were all consistent between stages 1 and 2; estimates of SNP-smoking interaction effects were not statistically significant (forest plots; Figure S3). All of the 15 replicated loci were genome-wide significant in European ancestry. Furthermore, 10 loci also had supporting evidence from non-European ancestry, resulting in stronger statistical significance from trans-ancestry analysis (Figure S3, Table 2). Quantile-quantile (QQ) plots for the genome-wide stage 1 meta-analysis are shown in Figure S2.

Of the 15 formally replicated loci, six loci (indicated by f in Table 2) are least 1 Mb away from any previously

Table 2. Newly Identified Loci that Are Significant in Stage 1 and Formally Replicated in Stage 2												
Locus ^a	Nearest Genes ^b	rsID	Chr:Pos ^c	EA	EAF	Ancestry and Trait	Stage	Genetic Main Effect Est ^d	Genetic Main Effect SE ^d	Interaction Effect Est ^d	Interaction Effect SE ^d	2 df Joint p Value ^e
1	<i>MTHFR</i> ; <i>CLCN6</i> ; <i>NPPA</i>	rs202071545	1:11878161	d	0.945	ALL.SBP	1	1.24	0.28	-0.16	0.38	3.77×10^{-8}
							2	0.88	0.17	0.01	0.25	7.44×10^{-12}
							1+2	0.99	0.14	-0.04	0.20	$*9.39 \times 10^{-20}$
2	<i>CLCN6</i> ; <i>NPPA</i> ; <i>NPPB</i> *	rs3753581	1:11920189	a	0.327	ALL.SBP	1	-0.63	0.09	0.16	0.21	4.34×10^{-12}
							2	-0.43	0.05	0.00	0.11	5.52×10^{-23}
							1+2	-0.48	0.04	0.04	0.10	$*1.31 \times 10^{-34}$
3	<i>NPPA</i> ; <i>NPPB</i>	rs72640287	1:11965792	t	0.039	EUR.SBP	1	-2.05	0.43	-0.04	0.59	1.59×10^{-10}
							2	-0.86	0.19	-0.33	0.28	8.19×10^{-13}
							1+2	-1.06	0.18	-0.31	0.25	$*2.79 \times 10^{-21}$
4	<i>WNT2B</i> *	rs351364	1:113045061	a	0.297	ALL.SBP	1	-0.60	0.10	0.53	0.22	1.67×10^{-8}
							2	-0.42	0.05	0.14	0.11	5.38×10^{-19}
							1+2	-0.45	0.04	0.22	0.10	$*1.20 \times 10^{-26}$
5 ^f	<i>CEP170</i> ; <i>SDCCAG8</i> ; <i>AKT3</i>	rs3897821	1:243420388	a	0.705	ALL.DBP	1	-0.35	0.06	0.20	0.13	2.49×10^{-9}
							2	-0.20	0.03	0.00	0.07	1.51×10^{-12}
							1+2	-0.23	0.03	0.05	0.06	$*1.67 \times 10^{-20}$
6 ^f	<i>FER1L5</i> *	rs7599598	2:97351840	a	0.564	EUR.DBP	1	-0.30	0.06	-0.15	0.14	5.93×10^{-8}
							2	-0.16	0.03	0.02	0.08	4.10×10^{-7}
							1+2	-0.19	0.03	-0.03	0.07	$*4.25 \times 10^{-13}$
7	<i>SLC4A7</i> *	rs13063291	3:27446285	a	0.204	ALL.DBP	1	0.33	0.08	0.03	0.12	4.00×10^{-8}
							2	0.20	0.04	-0.14	0.06	3.75×10^{-6}
							1+2	0.23	0.04	-0.09	0.05	$*1.67 \times 10^{-11}$
8 ^f	<i>PRAG1</i> ; <i>MFHAS1</i>	rs7823056	8:8382705	a	0.397	EUR.SBP	1	-0.56	0.10	-0.02	0.22	1.54×10^{-8}
							2	-0.42	0.05	0.16	0.13	1.55×10^{-14}
							1+2	-0.45	0.05	0.10	0.11	$*3.01 \times 10^{-22}$
9 ^f	<i>PPP1R3B</i> ; <i>TNKS</i>	rs62493780	8:9151051	t	0.238	EUR.SBP	1	0.89	0.18	-0.19	0.25	3.47×10^{-8}
							2	0.46	0.09	-0.27	0.13	2.37×10^{-7}
							1+2	0.54	0.08	-0.24	0.12	$*2.95 \times 10^{-13}$

(Continued on next page)

Table 2. Continued

Locus ^a	Nearest Genes ^b	rsID	Chr:Pos ^c	EA	EAF	Ancestry and Trait	Stage	Genetic Main Effect Est ^d	Genetic Main Effect SE ^d	Interaction Effect Est ^d	Interaction Effect SE ^d	2 df Joint p Value ^e
10 ^f	MIR124-1*;MSRA	rs13271489	8:9803712	t	0.478	EUR.SBP	1	0.55	0.10	0.02	0.22	6.37 × 10 ⁻⁸
							2	0.44	0.05	-0.13	0.14	9.35 × 10 ⁻¹⁶
							1+2	0.46	0.05	-0.08	0.12	*4.56 × 10 ⁻²³
11	TNNI2;LSP1*;TNNI3	rs7483477	11:1920255	t	0.75	ALL.SBP	1	-0.65	0.11	0.17	0.27	2.25 × 10 ⁻⁸
							2	-0.36	0.05	0.08	0.12	1.77 × 10 ⁻¹³
							1+2	-0.40	0.04	0.09	0.11	*2.12 × 10 ⁻²⁰
12	POC1B;ATP2B1	rs7313874	12:89965049	t	0.325	ALL.SBP	1	-0.64	0.11	0.01	0.15	1.85 × 10 ⁻¹⁴
							2	-0.48	0.06	-0.23	0.09	1.07 × 10 ⁻³⁹
							1+2	-0.52	0.05	-0.17	0.08	*2.49 × 10 ⁻⁵⁴
13	ATP2B1*	rs111337717	12:90037506	t	0.943	ALL.SBP	1	1.27	0.33	0.60	0.46	9.23 × 10 ⁻¹¹
							2	1.09	0.15	-0.26	0.22	2.86 × 10 ⁻¹⁸
							1+2	1.13	0.13	-0.07	0.20	*1.27 × 10 ⁻²⁷
14	PTPN11	rs7974266	12:113007602	t	0.513	ALL.DBP	1	0.19	0.13	0.57	0.18	3.58 × 10 ⁻⁸
							2	0.23	0.06	0.19	0.09	6.50 × 10 ⁻¹²
							1+2	0.22	0.06	0.28	0.08	*5.91 × 10 ⁻¹⁹
15 ^f	AKTIP;RPGRIPL1;FTO*	rs11642015	16:53802494	t	0.334	ALL.SBP	1	0.57	0.09	-0.19	0.21	2.78 × 10 ⁻⁹
							2	0.29	0.05	0.08	0.11	6.74 × 10 ⁻¹³
							1+2	0.35	0.04	0.03	0.10	*9.91 × 10 ⁻²¹

Each locus is genome-wide significant ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) in stage 1 and formally replicated in stage 2 using Bonferroni-adjusted significance level ($p < 0.05/74$). Forest plots and LocusZoom plots are shown in Figures S3 and S4, respectively. Abbreviations: BP, blood pressure; SBP, systolic BP; DBP, diastolic BP; EA, effect allele; EAF, effect allele frequency; 2 df joint p, p value of the joint test with 2 degrees of freedom of genetic main and interaction effects; 1 df interaction p, p value of the interaction test with 1 degree of freedom; EUR, European ancestry; ALL, trans-ancestry (i.e., combining all ancestry groups through meta-analysis).

^aEach locus was determined through LD-based clumping, using ± 1 Mb around index variants, followed by LD threshold of $r^2 > 0.1$; ancestry-specific LDs from 1000 Genomes Project were used when clumping within each ancestry and the entire cosmopolitan data were used for trans-ancestry clumping.

^bGene names were obtained using variant predictor (VEP) from Ensembl. Genes with intragenic index variants are indicated with an asterisk (*).

^cPositions are based on build 37.

^dEffect is in mmHg unit.

^eThe most significant p value (between 1 df interaction test and 2 df joint test) are indicated with an asterisk (*).

^fThese loci indicate “completely novel” loci, at least 1 Mb away from any of known BP loci.

published BP variants, and we term them “completely novel.” Three of them (near *PRAG1*, *MIR124-1*, and *FTO*) show compelling biological relevance (see below) and eQTL evidence (Figure 2). The locus zoom plots of all newly identified loci identified in this paper are shown in Figure S4. The remaining 9 loci are novel signals (which meet our definition of a locus) near but not in LD ($r^2 < 0.1$) with known BP loci. For example, near the well-known BP locus *ATP2B1* on chromosome 12, there were two independent signals identified in European ($p = 4.1 \times 10^{-41}$), Asian ($p = 1.5 \times 10^{-13}$), and trans-ancestry ($p = 2.5 \times 10^{-54}$) analyses. Near another well-known BP locus, *MTHFR-NPPB-CLCN6*, we identified three additional independent signals (with p values as small as 4.3×10^{-34} at index variants, spanning 196 kb [from 11,827,796 to 12,023,500] on chromosome 1).

Combined Analysis of Stages 1 and 2

Combined meta-analysis of stages 1 and 2 identified a total of 82 additional independent loci ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) not identified by the 2-step approach. Association statistics for all genome-wide significant variants in the combined meta-analysis are provided in Table S9. Manhattan plots of the combined meta-analysis for each BP trait using the 1 df interaction and 2 df joint tests are shown in Figures S5–S8. Summary Manhattan plots for SBP and DBP with the minimum p values across all analyses are shown in Figure S9. QQ plots are shown in Figure S10.

Of these 82 additional loci identified through combined analysis, 16 loci contain previously published BP variants.^{1,3–7} All of the remaining 66 loci had a low false discovery rate (FDR q value < 0.1 for all 66 loci and < 0.01 for 60 of the loci, Table S10). Of these 66 loci, 18 and 13 loci were identified through trans-ancestry (Table 3) and European ancestry (Table 4), respectively. Except for one locus, they were suggestive ($p < 1 \times 10^{-6}$) in stage 1 analyses but became significant in the combined stages 1 and 2 meta-analysis (Tables 3, 4, and 5). The strength of the combined analysis was exemplified by a locus in *HOTTIP* on chromosome 7 (locus 4 in Table 3), which were suggestive in stage 1 analysis ($p = 9.4 \times 10^{-7}$) and identified through the combined analysis in European ($p = 6.0 \times 10^{-29}$), Asian ($p = 1.2 \times 10^{-10}$), and trans-ancestry ($p = 3.6 \times 10^{-41}$, see Figure S3). Genome-wide significant loci from trans-ancestry analysis did not show strong evidence of heterogeneity across ancestry groups.

Of the 66 identified loci, 35 were found through African-ancestry only (Table 5). These loci were mostly low frequency with MAF between 1% and 5% (Table 5). Of these 35 loci, 4 were genome-wide significant in stage 1 African ancestry and stayed significant in the combined analysis (although not formally replicated in stage 2). One such locus was near *BMP7* on chromosome 20 (with $p = 5.8 \times 10^{-10}$ in stage 1; $p = 0.03$ in stage 2; $p = 4.2 \times 10^{-12}$ in stages 1+2). Six loci were suggestive ($p < 1 \times 10^{-6}$) in stage 1 analyses but became significant in the combined stages 1 and 2 meta-analysis. One such locus was near

WSCD1 on chromosome 17 (with $p = 8.7 \times 10^{-7}$ in stage 1; $p = 0.00047$ in stage 2; $p = 1.8 \times 10^{-10}$ in stages 1+2). The remaining 25 loci were genome-wide significant in stage 1 African ancestry but not represented in stage 2 African ancestry due to limited sample sizes and low MAF. Furthermore, 15 loci were African-specific loci; they had $MAF < 1\%$ in the other ancestry groups and were filtered out by the individual studies (by design), and therefore results are unavailable for further analysis. In the non-AFR ancestry results, genome-wide significant variants at newly identified loci were mostly common (with $MAF \geq 5\%$) and had similar MAF distributions as those at known loci (Figure S10).

Known BP Loci

At most of the 56 known BP loci^{1,3–7} identified in the two-step or combined analyses, the lead variant identified by our analyses was the same as the one previously published (Table S11); European, Asian, and trans-ancestry results identified 48, 14, and 50 of these variants, respectively. In the remaining loci, our results identified a variant in the same locus as the known BP variant. The most significant results were observed at well-known BP loci: *ATP2B1* (rs17249754 on chromosome 12, trans-ancestry $P_{SBP} = 4.8 \times 10^{-85}$; $P_{DBP} = 5.5 \times 10^{-57}$) and *SH2B3-ATXN2* (rs3184504 on chromosome 12, trans-ancestry $P_{SBP} = 3.2 \times 10^{-36}$; $P_{DBP} = 6.0 \times 10^{-67}$).

The Role of Interactions

Interaction effects contributed in varying degrees to the evidence of association for the 81 newly reported genome-wide significant loci (Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5). The genetic effects of these new index variants (each index variant representing a locus with the smallest p value) were different in smokers and non-smokers, thus highlighting the potentially important role of interactions (Figure 3). Among the 81 index variants, 10 variants showed genome-wide significant interactions with smoking exposure status (1 df interaction $p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$). All 10 of these variants, most of which were identified in African ancestry, show larger effects on BP in smokers (Figure 3). However, none of the interactions were replicated in stage 2. In addition, of the 158 previously reported BP variants, two (rs3752728 in *PDE3A* and rs3184504 in *SH2B3-ATXN2*) show significant evidence of interactions with smoking using Bonferroni correction (1 df interaction $p < 0.05/158$). 27 additional variants show nominal evidence of interaction (with $p < 0.05$).

To minimize spurious results, we winsorized extreme BP values and used robust standard errors in cohort-specific analyses. Moreover, since non-normality and unequal BP variances among smokers and non-smokers can lead to false positives, we examined these characteristics in three large studies (ARIC, UK Biobank, and WGHS). The distributions look very similar in exposed and unexposed groups (histograms in Figure S1). The variances across strata are also very similar (Table S5). Moreover, on average across

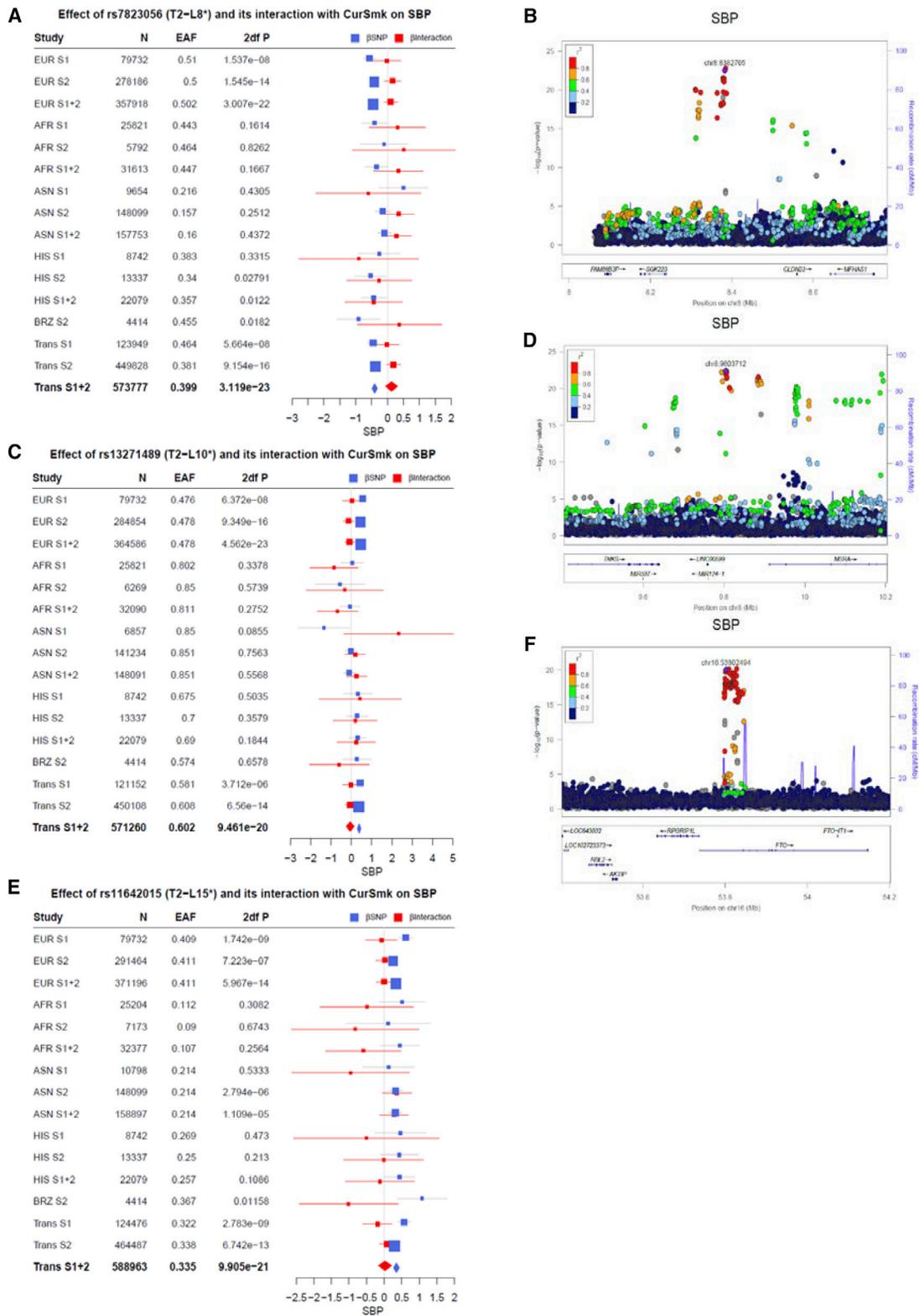


Figure 2. Forest Plots and LocusZoom Plots for Three Newly Identified Loci

(A and B) Variant rs7823056 and 10 additional variants on chromosome 8 are an eQTL for *PRAG1*, which is expressed in multiple tissues including the cerebellum and thyroid.

(C and D) Variant rs13271489 is a *cis*-eQTL for *MSRA* and predicted to modify enhancers in brain cells. *MSRA* has been shown to be associated with obesity-related traits and adipocyte function; it also promotes the survival and development of dopaminergic neurons.

(E and F) Variant rs11642015 is intronic to the well-known obesity/diabetes locus *FTO*. In addition, *AKTIP* in this locus has role in telomere maintenance.

Loci selected from Table 2.

Table 3. Additional Significant Loci from the Combined Trans-Ancestry Analyses of Stages 1 and 2

Locus ^a	Nearest Genes ^b	rsID	Chr:Pos ^c	EA	EAF	Effect ^d		p Value ^e		Trait
						Genetic Main	Interaction	1 df Interaction	2 df Joint	
1	<i>NPPA</i> ; <i>NPPB</i>	rs12741980	1:11939593	a	0.943	0.68	0.02	0.852	3.04×10^{-14}	SBP
2 ^f	<i>RSRC1</i> *	rs201851995	3:157837508	d	0.648	-0.6	0.38	0.0016	4.65×10^{-12}	SBP
3 ^f	<i>INPP4B</i> ; <i>GAB1</i>	rs78763922	4:144054552	d	0.303	0.34	0.05	0.5067	4.03×10^{-13}	SBP
4	<i>HOTTIP</i> *	rs2023843	7:27243221	t	0.837	0.7	-0.2	0.1634	3.69×10^{-41}	SBP
5 ^f	<i>MFHAS1</i> *; <i>ERII</i> ; <i>PPP1R3B</i>	rs201133964	8:8607849	d	0.174	-0.52	-0.16	0.4366	1.24×10^{-9}	SBP
6 ^f	<i>PPP1R3B</i> ; <i>TNKS</i>	rs35904419	8:9376810	d	0.816	-0.19	-0.15	0.1761	1.34×10^{-8}	DBP
7	<i>FAM167A-AS1</i> *; <i>FAM167A</i> ; <i>BLK</i>	rs4841531	8:11293390	t	0.161	-0.31	0.03	0.7825	1.32×10^{-8}	SBP
8 ^f	<i>EBF2</i> ; <i>LOC105379336</i> *; <i>PPP2R2A</i> ; <i>DPYSL2</i> ; <i>ADRA1A</i>	rs58429174	8:26011922	t	0.262	-0.12	-0.14	0.026	2.60×10^{-9}	DBP
9	<i>ADRB1</i>	rs180940	10:115722411	a	0.391	-0.19	0.06	0.1514	5.00×10^{-12}	DBP
10	<i>AP5B1</i> ; <i>OVOL1</i>	rs201316070	11:65548558	d	0.061	-0.6	-0.23	0.462	1.54×10^{-9}	SBP
11 ^f	<i>LRP6</i> ; <i>GPR19</i> ; <i>APOLD1</i> *; <i>GPRC5A</i>	rs72656645	12:12881055	a	0.7	0.36	-0.13	0.064	4.49×10^{-15}	SBP
12	<i>SLCO1C1</i> ; <i>SLCO1B3</i> ; <i>SLCO1B7</i> ; <i>SLCO1B1</i>	rs73073686	12:20354507	a	0.231	-0.24	-0.07	0.2553	1.68×10^{-18}	DBP
13	<i>ATP2B1</i>	rs10858948	12:90478651	a	0.578	-0.18	0	0.6992	4.74×10^{-15}	DBP
14	<i>MED13L</i>	rs11067762	12:116198214	a	0.176	-0.24	-0.05	0.1951	5.30×10^{-18}	DBP
15	<i>CYP1A1-2</i> ; <i>ULK3</i> ; <i>SCAMP2</i> *; <i>MPI</i>	rs10628234	15:75211142	d	0.3	0.32	-0.22	0.0253	1.57×10^{-24}	DBP
16 ^f	<i>LDHD</i> ; <i>CFDP1</i> *; <i>TMEM231</i> ; <i>TERF2IP</i>	rs4888411	16:75443183	a	0.56	0.26	0.12	0.0467	1.19×10^{-18}	SBP
17 ^f	<i>SLC2A4</i> ; <i>KCTD11</i> ; <i>TNFSF12</i> *; <i>TNFSF13</i> ; <i>ATP1B2</i>	rs9899183	17:7452977	t	0.742	-0.35	0.07	0.6683	1.24×10^{-12}	SBP
18 ^f	<i>ACE</i> *	rs4968782	17:61548476	a	0.616	-0.2	0.08	0.2179	3.30×10^{-16}	DBP

Each locus is genome-wide significant ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) in the combined analyses of stages 1 and 2 and had FDR q value < 0.1 . Forest plots and LocusZoom plots are shown in [Figures S3](#) and [S4](#), respectively. Abbreviations: BP, blood pressure; SBP, systolic BP; DBP, diastolic BP; EA, effect allele; EAF, effect allele frequency; 2 df joint p, p value of the joint test with 2 degrees of freedom of genetic main and interaction effects; 1 df interaction p, p value of the interaction test with 1 degree of freedom.

^aEach locus was determined through LD-based clumping, using ± 1 Mb around index variants, followed by LD threshold of $r^2 > 0.1$; ancestry-specific LDs from 1000 Genomes Project were used when clumping within each ancestry and the entire cosmopolitan data were used for trans-ancestry clumping.

^bGene names were obtained using variant effect predictor (VEP) from Ensembl. Genes with intragenic index variants are indicated with an asterisk (*).

^cPositions are based on build 37.

^dEffect is in mmHg unit.

^eThe most significant p value (between 1 df interaction test and 2 df joint test) is indicated with an asterisk (*).

^fThese loci indicate “completely novel” loci, at least 1 Mb away from any of known BP loci.

all stage 1 cohorts, skewness is 0.64 for SBP and 0.36 for DBP; kurtosis is 3.52 for SBP and 3.32 for DBP ([Table S3](#)). There do not seem to be substantial deviations from normality although moderate deviations exist. Therefore, it is less likely that the interaction effects at these 10 newly identified loci are spurious.

BP Variance Explained

In several large cohorts, we calculated the percent of BP variance explained by various loci across four ancestries ([Table S8](#)). The variance explained by the 158 previously known loci ranges from 1.1% (in HIS) to 3.2% (in EUR) for SBP and ranges from 1.6% (in ASN and HIS) to 3.4% (in AFR) for DBP. The additional variance explained by the newly identified loci and their interactions ranges

from 0.6% (in EUR) to 2.6% (in AFR) for SBP and ranges from 0.3% (in ASN) to 3.2% (in AFR) for DBP. The percent variance explained is ideally calculated in large individual studies which did not participate in our analysis in stage 1 or 2. However, having recruited most of the studies available to us into stage 1 or 2 (for maximizing power), we had to use some of the same studies for this purpose and therefore some of the variance estimates may be somewhat inflated. In an independent EUR study (Airwave study, $N = 14,002$) that did not participate in stage 1 or 2, known variants explained 1.6% of variance in SBP and DBP, and newly identified variants and their interactions explained 1.2% variance in SBP and 1.3% variance in DBP ([Table S8](#)). These variances are within the ranges noted, lending credibility to the results from other studies. Note that

Table 4. Additional Significant Loci from the Combined Analyses of Stages 1 and 2 in European Ancestry

Locus ^a	Nearest Genes ^b	rsID	Chr:Pos ^c	EA	EAF	Effect ^d		P value ^e		Trait
						Genetic Main	Interaction	1 df Interaction	2 df Joint	
1	<i>MTHFR</i> *, <i>CLCN6</i>	rs6541006	1:11857526	a	0.071	-0.85	0	0.6454	*3.17 × 10 ⁻¹⁹	SBP
2 ^f	<i>KCNG3</i> ; <i>DYNC2LI1</i>	rs73923009	2:43141074	a	0.099	-0.36	0.07	0.6165	*1.21 × 10 ⁻¹⁴	DBP
3	<i>SLC17A1-4</i> ; <i>HFE</i>	rs7753826	6:26042239	a	0.189	0.36	-0.05	0.4371	*1.72 × 10 ⁻²⁵	DBP
4	<i>SLC44A4</i> ; <i>EHMT2</i> *; <i>STK19</i> ; <i>CYP21A2</i> ; <i>TNXB</i>	rs2243873	6:31863433	a	0.556	0.45	-0.19	0.0472	*3.33 × 10 ⁻¹⁴	SBP
5	<i>SLC44A4</i> ; <i>EHMT2</i> ; <i>HLA-DQB2</i> *; <i>STK19</i> ; <i>CYP21A2</i> ; <i>TNXB</i>	rs2071550	6:32730940	a	0.307	0.29	-0.22	0.0003	*1.17 × 10 ⁻⁹	DBP
6 ^f	<i>TNKS</i> ; <i>MSRA</i>	rs4841235	8:9683358	a	0.426	0.37	-0.1	0.7078	*4.78 × 10 ⁻¹⁵	SBP
7	<i>SOX7</i> *; <i>PINX1</i>	rs6995692	8:10587008	c	0.563	-0.44	0.31	0.0102	*4.11 × 10 ⁻¹⁹	SBP
8 ^f	<i>ADARB2</i> *	rs150155092	10:1769881	d	0.013	4.76	-18.32	*7.43 × 10 ⁻⁹	1.94 × 10 ⁻⁸	SBP
9	<i>KAT5</i> ; <i>RNASEH2C</i>	rs72941051	11:65478893	t	0.074	-0.39	0.07	0.3701	*1.75 × 10 ⁻¹¹	DBP
10 ^f	<i>FAM19A2</i> *; <i>AVPR1A</i>	rs17713040	12:62467714	t	0.977	0.24	0.31	0.7633	*3.44 × 10 ⁻⁸	DBP
11	<i>FAM109A</i> ; <i>SH2B3</i> *; <i>ATXN2</i>	rs4375492	12:111835990	a	0.794	0.35	0.03	0.8187	*1.03 × 10 ⁻²⁶	DBP
12	<i>MPI</i> ; <i>COX5A</i> ; <i>SCAMP5</i>	rs12050494	15:75260896	a	0.316	0.32	-0.06	0.525	*3.01 × 10 ⁻²⁷	DBP
13 ^f	<i>NAA38</i> *; <i>KCNAB3</i> ; <i>VAMP2</i>	rs74439044	17:7781019	t	0.903	-0.36	-0.14	0.1507	*2.43 × 10 ⁻²¹	DBP

Each locus is genome-wide significant ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) in the combined analyses of stages 1 and 2 and had FDR q value < 0.1 . Forest plots and LocusZoom plots are shown in Figures S3 and S4, respectively. Abbreviations: BP, blood pressure; SBP, systolic BP; DBP, diastolic BP; EA, effect allele; EAF, effect allele frequency; 2 df joint p, p value of the joint test with 2 degrees of freedom of genetic main and interaction effects; 1 df interaction p, p value of the interaction test with 1 degree of freedom.

^aEach locus was determined through LD-based clumping, using ± 1 Mb around index variants, followed by LD threshold of $r^2 > 0.1$; ancestry-specific LDs from 1000 Genomes Project were used when clumping within each ancestry and the entire cosmopolitan data were used for trans-ancestry clumping.

^bGene names were obtained using variant effect predictor (VEP) from Ensembl. Genes with intragenic index variants are indicated with an asterisk (*).

^cPositions are based on build 37.

^dEffect is in mmHg unit.

^eThe most significant p value (between 1 df interaction test and 2 df joint test) was set in bold.

^fThese loci indicate “completely novel” loci, at least 1 Mb away from any of known BP loci.

both known and newly identified variants (with their interactions) explain some of the BP variance across ancestry groups.

Functional Annotation and eQTL Evidence

For all 81 index variants representing the newly identified loci, we obtained functional annotations using HaploReg³⁸ and RegulomeDB.³⁹ There were 2 coding variants (1 missense and 1 synonymous). Of the remaining non-coding variants (29 intronic and 52 intergenic), 17 are located in promoter histone marks, 53 in enhancer histone marks, 29 in DNase I marks, and 10 altered the binding sites of regulatory proteins (Table S12). Conserved among vertebrates were 6 variants as identified via GERP⁴⁰ and 5 variants via SiPhy.⁴¹ RegulomeDB assigned class 1f (strong evidence for enhancer function) for 2 variants (Table S12), each of which likely affects the binding of regulatory elements and is linked to expression of a gene target. Of these, rs12741980 (locus 2, Table 4) is near the well-known BP locus *MTHFR-NPPB-CLCN6* and a *cis*-acting expression quantitative trait locus (eQTL) for *NPPA-AS1*, which is expressed in multiple tissues, including thyroid and whole blood. Also, newly identified variant rs180940 (locus 10, Table 4), with RegulomeDB score of 1f, is a *cis*-

eQTL for the known locus *ADRB1*, an adrenergic receptor that mediates effects of the hormone epinephrine and the neurotransmitter norepinephrine,⁴² although it is about 80 kb upstream of this locus. Of note, our results identified this known BP locus (rs2782980, $p = 1.1 \times 10^{-21}$ and rs1801253, $p = 1.3 \times 10^{-22}$, in Table S11).

Among the 81 newly identified index variants, *cis*-eQTL evidence was available for 39 variants with varying degrees of association with expression probes (Table S12). In particular, 21 of them were identified by GTEx³⁴ as *cis*-eQTLs across various tissues (Table S13). However, most of them are for *cis*-eQTLs that differ from their nearest assigned genes. For example, an intronic variant in *WNT2B* (rs351364) is a *cis*-eQTL for *RHOC*, which serves as a microtubule-dependent signal that is required for the myosin contractile ring formation during cell cycle cytokinesis. Additionally, 11 variants (including rs7823056 in Figure 2) on chromosome 8 are *cis*-eQTLs for *PRAG1*, which is expressed in multiple tissues including the cerebellum and thyroid. The most abundant evidence of *cis*-eQTL association (with 44 eQTL hits from multiple studies) was observed for rs2243873, an intronic variant of *EHMT2*; it is predicted to regulate expression of many genes including *HLA-C*, *HLA-B*, and *HLA-DRB1* across multiple tissues.

Locus ^a	Nearest Genes ^b	rsID	Chr:Pos ^c	EA	EAF	Effect ^d			p Value ^e		Trait
						Genetic Main	Interaction	1 df Interaction	2 df Joint		
1 ^f	<i>AJAP1</i> *	rs12135881	1:4781922	c	0.988	-2.05	16.94	2.06 × 10 ⁻⁸	*3.09 × 10 ⁻⁹	SBP	
2 ^f	<i>FABP3;SERINC2;TINAGL1</i>	rs11809589	1:31970118	a	0.012	-1.11	-18.04	1.54 × 10 ⁻⁷	*7.71 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	SBP	
3 ^f	<i>LOC101928219</i>	rs182662555	1:96289336	t	0.988	6.15	-4.45	0.00201	*1.79 × 10 ⁻⁸	DBP	
4 ^f	<i>PXDN;MYT1L</i> *	rs75247762	2:1893133	t	0.014	-2.37	-12.93	1.45 × 10 ⁻⁵	*1.17 × 10 ⁻⁹	SBP	
5 ^f	<i>ASB3;ERLEC1;GPR75</i>	rs115234772	2:53650295	a	0.987	-0.1	8.5	2.13 × 10 ⁻⁹	*1.07 × 10 ⁻¹¹	DBP	
6 ^f	<i>SERTAD2;SLC1A4</i>	rs145162854	2:65104447	a	0.015	-3.17	-2.61	0.171	*6.63 × 10 ⁻⁹	SBP	
7 ^f	<i>ACOX1</i> *	rs116008367	2:111807546	c	0.014	-0.86	-5.35	5.00 × 10 ⁻⁵	*3.09 × 10 ⁻⁸	DBP	
8 ^f	<i>KCNE4;SCG2</i>	rs10166552	2:224036537	t	0.016	-0.15	-10.83	4.28 × 10 ⁻⁶	*1.52 × 10 ⁻⁹	SBP	
9 ^f	<i>TPRA1</i> *, <i>MCM2</i>	rs139963642	3:127314188	t	0.013	-6.35	1.23	0.6742	*1.55 × 10 ⁻⁸	DBP	
10 ^f	<i>PCDH7</i>	rs11931572	4:30086104	a	0.968	-0.45	3.28	2.71 × 10 ⁻⁶	*2.91 × 10 ⁻⁸	DBP	
11 ^f	<i>SPRY1;LINCO1091</i> *	rs62319742	4:124581262	a	0.014	1.98	-10.98	*3.43 × 10 ⁻⁸	4.09 × 10 ⁻⁸	DBP	
12 ^f	<i>HSD17B4</i>	rs140543491	5:118923601	a	0.017	-3	-16.29	1.24 × 10 ⁻⁵	*5.34 × 10 ⁻⁹	SBP	
13 ^f	<i>OFCC1</i>	rs148387718	6:9446000	t	0.014	0.59	-7.84	2.70 × 10 ⁻⁸	*1.77 × 10 ⁻¹¹	DBP	
14 ^f	<i>NEDD9;LOC105374928</i> *	rs9348895	6:11496048	a	0.586	0.11	1.21	6.15 × 10 ⁻⁶	*1.71 × 10 ⁻⁸	DBP	
15 ^f	<i>MYO6;JMPG1</i> *	rs58806982	6:76688806	t	0.01	-11.24	14.92	1.47 × 10 ⁻⁵	*4.57 × 10 ⁻⁸	SBP	
16 ^f	<i>TARID</i> *, <i>SLC2A12</i>	rs76987554	6:134080855	t	0.062	-1.57	0	0.6676	*1.63 × 10 ⁻⁸	SBP	
17 ^f	<i>ARID1B</i> *	rs112140754	6:157243233	t	0.988	0.97	7.6	0.00104	*2.44 × 10 ⁻⁸	DBP	
18 ^f	<i>BZW2</i> *	rs116196735	7:16710605	a	0.018	-2.88	-13.75	0.00037	*6.98 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	SBP	
19 ^f	<i>MED30;EXT1</i>	rs74701635	8:118758316	t	0.016	3.79	-19.2	2.38 × 10 ⁻⁹	*2.13 × 10 ⁻⁹	SBP	
20 ^f	<i>ADAMTSL1</i> *, <i>MIR3152</i>	rs146250839	9:18189778	a	0.976	0.35	2.79	0.00029	*4.36 × 10 ⁻⁸	DBP	
21 ^f	<i>SPIN1;SLP3;SHC3;CKS2</i>	rs192642798	9:91503987	a	0.012	-8.38	3.95	0.346	*4.23 × 10 ⁻⁹	SBP	
22 ^f	<i>FZD8</i>	rs76726877	10:36313497	t	0.015	-1.55	-9.14	4.17 × 10 ⁻⁶	*4.47 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	DBP	
23 ^f	<i>SFRP5;CRFAC1</i> *	rs11599481	10:99640463	t	0.058	-0.9	-3.33	1.38 × 10 ⁻⁵	*4.55 × 10 ⁻¹¹	SBP	
24 ^f	<i>TSPAN18;PRDM11;SYT13</i>	rs148772934	11:45005681	t	0.986	-0.57	11.66	1.00 × 10 ⁻⁸	*1.20 × 10 ⁻⁹	DBP	
25	<i>SLC15A3;CD6;LOC105369325</i> *, <i>CD5</i>	rs11601370	11:60834043	t	0.976	1.34	6.63	0.00867	*3.01 × 10 ⁻⁹	SBP	
26 ^f	<i>LOC101928944</i>	rs74601585	11:80140007	t	0.017	-3.93	-2.58	0.2715	*8.06 × 10 ⁻⁹	SBP	
27 ^f	<i>LOC105369408</i>	rs78103586	11:133893928	a	0.029	-1.65	-5.27	0.00163	*2.26 × 10 ⁻⁹	DBP	

(Continued on next page)

Table 5. Continued

Locus ^a	Nearest Genes ^b	rsID	Chr:Pos ^c	EA	EAF	Effect ^d			p Value ^e		Trait
						Genetic Main	Interaction	1 df Interaction	2 df Joint		
28 ^f	<i>PLEKHG7;EAA1;LOC643339*</i>	rs61935525	12:93645481	c	0.985	1.26	10.15	3.28 × 10 ⁻⁷	*3.28 × 10 ⁻¹¹	DBP	
29 ^f	<i>DIGER1;CLMN</i>	rs187852559	14:95794914	a	0.013	-1.67	-4.93	0.0246	*8.74 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	DBP	
30 ^f	<i>SETD3;CCNK</i>	rs1257310	14:99810427	a	0.784	1.03	0.98	0.1335	*1.67 × 10 ⁻⁸	SBP	
31	<i>GPRI39;GP2;UMOD;PDILT</i>	rs148753653	16:20230175	a	0.981	5.25	-9.4	*1.89 × 10 ⁻⁸	6.30 × 10 ⁻⁸	DBP	
32 ^f	<i>LOC339166*;WSCD1</i>	rs138973557	17:5699720	t	0.903	0.36	2.09	2.12 × 10 ⁻⁸	*1.81 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	DBP	
33 ^f	<i>DYM;LIPG;ACAA2;MYOSB</i>	rs9965695	18:47261614	t	0.982	0.29	13.32	8.36 × 10 ⁻⁶	*1.63 × 10 ⁻⁸	SBP	
34 ^f	<i>ZNF98*</i>	rs10405764	19:22598479	t	0.017	0.91	-19.1	2.13 × 10 ⁻⁷	*4.30 × 10 ⁻⁸	SBP	
35 ^f	<i>BMP7</i>	rs115893283	20:55404165	t	0.042	0.9	-9.05	2.53 × 10 ⁻⁸	*4.24 × 10 ⁻¹²	SBP	

Each locus is genome-wide significant ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) in the combined analyses of stages 1 and 2 and had FDR q value < 0.1 . Forest plots and LocusZoom plots are shown in Figures S3 and S4, respectively. Abbreviations: BP, blood pressure; SBP, systolic BP; DBP, diastolic BP; EA, effect allele; EAF, effect allele frequency; 2 df joint p, p value of the joint test with 2 degrees of freedom of genetic main and interaction effects; 1 df interaction p, p value of the interaction test with 1 degree of freedom.

^aEach locus was determined through LD-based clumping, using ± 1 Mb around index variants, followed by LD threshold of $r^2 > 0.1$; ancestry-specific LDs from 1000 Genomes Project were used when clumping within each ancestry and the entire cosmopolitan data were used for trans-ancestry clumping.

^bGene names were obtained using variant effect predictor (VEP) from Ensembl. Genes with intragenic index variants are indicated with an asterisk (*).

^cPositions are based on build 37.

^dEffect is in mmHg unit.

^eThe most significant p value (between 1 df interaction test and 2 df joint test) is indicated with an asterisk (*).

^fThese loci indicate "completely novel" loci, at least 1 Mb away from any of known BP loci.

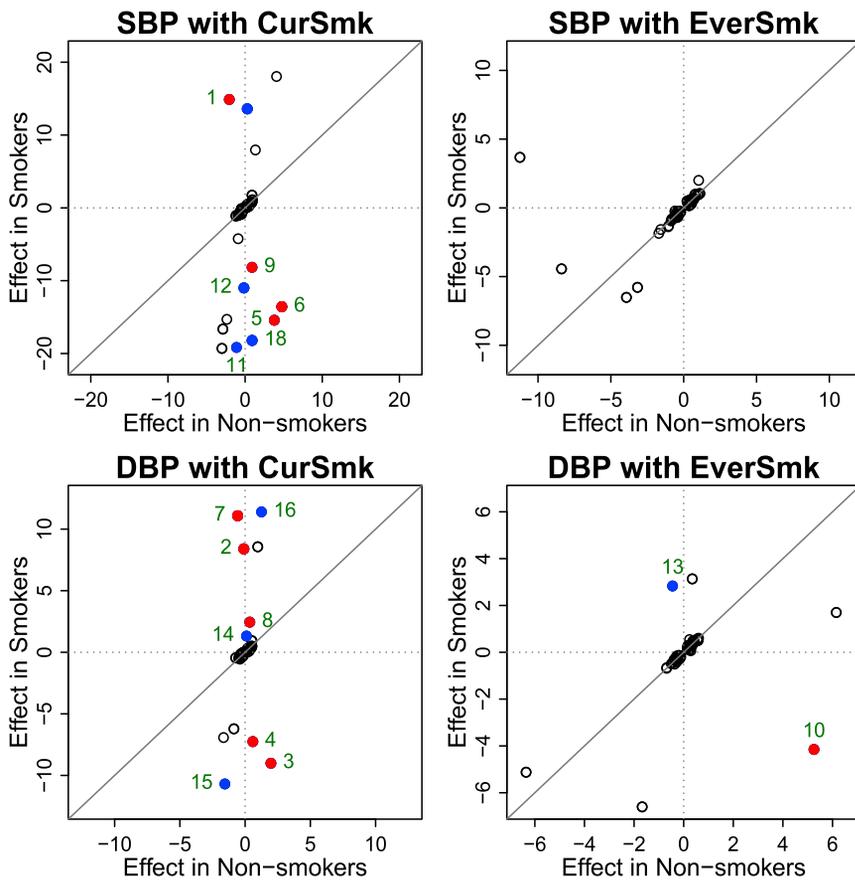


Figure 3. Scatterplots of Smoking-Specific Genetic Effect Sizes for BP Traits at the 15 Newly Identified and 66 Putative Index Variants Listed in Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5

The red points show variants with 1 df interaction $p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ (1 = rs12135881; 2 = rs115234772; 3 = rs62319742; 4 = rs148387718; 5 = rs74701635; 6 = rs150155092; 7 = rs148772934; 8 = rs138973557; 9 = rs115893283; 10 = rs148753653). The blue points show variants with 1 df interaction $p < 1 \times 10^{-5}$ (11 = rs11809589; 12 = rs10166552; 13 = rs11931572; 14 = rs9348895; 15 = rs76726877; 16 = rs61935525; 17 = rs9965695; 18 = rs10405764).

ancestry) and BP trait (DBP versus SBP; [Material and Methods, Tables S15–S20](#)). DEPICT significantly prioritized genes (FDR < 5%) at 12 European DBP loci, 26 European SBP loci, 34 trans-ancestry DBP loci, and 27 trans-ancestry SBP loci ([Tables S15–S19](#)). In 43 cases, the prioritized gene for a specific locus differed from the nearest gene of the lead variant. Our DEPICT gene-set enrichment analyses highlighted a role for the identified

The majority of the available data on tissue expression are derived from studies with a breadth of tissue types but with small sample sizes that limit the statistical power to detect association. A more in-depth but single-tissue functional annotation, reporting both *cis*- and *trans*-acting elements, was recently performed using microarray-based gene and exon expression levels in whole blood from more than 5,000 individuals of the Framingham Heart Study.³⁵ In this database, a total of 170 variant-transcript pairs (representing 36 variants) were significant at false discovery rate (FDR) < 0.05 ([Table S14](#)). There were 113 pairs for *cis*-eQTL, 3 pairs for *trans*-eQTL, and 54 pairs for long-range *cis*-eQTL where the variant is located more than 1 Mb away from the target transcript on the same chromosome. Among 36 variants, 9 variants were eQTLs for more than 5 gene transcripts. For example, the 4 SNPs with the most significant eQTL evidence were rs2243873 (described in the previous paragraph), rs2071550, rs7823056, and rs13271489 (locus 8 in [Table 2](#) and [Figure 2](#)) associated with 29, 12, 11, and 10 transcripts, respectively.

Pathway and Gene Set Enrichment Analysis

In order to distinguish between functional properties of loci with SBP compared to DBP effects, as well as between European-specific and trans-ancestry mechanisms, we conducted gene prioritization, gene set enrichment, and tissue enrichment analyses using DEPICT⁴³ separately by the four combinations of ancestry (EUR versus trans-

ancestry) and BP trait (DBP versus SBP; [Material and Methods, Tables S15–S20](#)). DEPICT significantly prioritized genes (FDR < 5%) at 12 European DBP loci, 26 European SBP loci, 34 trans-ancestry DBP loci, and 27 trans-ancestry SBP loci ([Tables S15–S19](#)). In 43 cases, the prioritized gene for a specific locus differed from the nearest gene of the lead variant. Our DEPICT gene-set enrichment analyses highlighted a role for the identified

variants in the cardiovascular system—predominantly affecting blood vessel biology (FDR < 0.05 for a total of 134 gene-sets across the four analyses, [Table S20](#)). To identify connected gene sets and pathways implicated by our findings, we performed GeneGO analysis and text data mining using Literature Lab.³⁶ The genes near our findings were enriched by GeneGO disease class “chronic kidney failure” ($p = 9.2 \times 10^{-6}$). These same genes were also included in the much larger network representing the GeneGO disease class “fibrosis” ($p = 3.39 \times 10^{-7}$), suggesting that genetic contribution of chronic kidney disease to BP is likely mediated by fibrosis. With Literature Lab, for the “diseases” medical subject heading (MeSH), hypertension was strongly enriched ($p = 0.0011$), with contributions from *ACE* (93.4%), *MTHFR* (2.12%), *ATP2B1* (1.18%), *NPPB* (0.54%), *SH2B3* (0.43%), and *SLC4A7* (0.13%). For the “physiology” MeSH, blood pressure and cardiovascular physiological phenomena were enriched. Blood pressure ($p = 0.0026$) had contributions from *ACE* (96.77%), *ATP2B1* (1.16%), *NPPB* (0.6%), *MTHFR* (0.46%), *SH2B3* (0.46%), and *FTO* (0.3%). Cardiovascular physiological phenomena ($p = 0.0056$) had contributions from *ACE* (97.89%), *NPPB* (1%), *ATP2B1* (0.37%), *MTHFR* (0.2%), *SH2B3* (0.16%), *TNFSF12* (0.09%), and *AP5B1* (0.05%).

Associations of BP Loci with Cardiometabolic Traits

To test association of all 81 newly identified BP-associated index variants with other cardiometabolic traits, we

obtained lookup results for coronary artery disease (CAD), stroke, and other cardiometabolic traits related to adiposity, diabetes, and renal function (Tables S21–S27). We found that several of our newly identified index variants corroborate those previously associated with these cardiometabolic traits. To quantify this, we counted the number of variants that show association with p value < 0.05 (highlighted in red). In the vast majority of cases (39 out of 47, $P_{\text{Binomial}} = 2.8 \times 10^{-6}$), the observed count is higher than that expected by chance alone (Table S27). For example, we observed 9 and 14 such associations with CAD and myocardial infarction, respectively, where the expected count is 2.6 for both traits. This is consistent with the known association of increased BP with CAD mortality, independent of other risk factors.⁴⁴ Likewise, overlapping signals with other cardiometabolic traits, including those related to adiposity, diabetes, and renal function, support the notion that these traits share a common pathophysiology. For many of the obesity-related trait associations found in the GIANT Consortium, the genetic effect was influenced by adjustment and/or stratification by smoking status⁴⁵ (Table S26).

We also found corroborating evidence for some well-known loci associated with the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system (RAAS), including *NPPA*, *NPPB*, and *SLC17A1-4* (Tables 2, 3, and 4).⁴ Variants in and near these loci have also been associated with CAD-related traits (*NPPA/NPPB*; Table S21), stroke (*NPPA/NPPB* and *SLC17A1-4*; Table S22), obesity-related traits (*NPPA/NPPB* and *SLC17A1-4*; Table S23), and diabetes-related traits (*SLC17A1-4*; Table S24). The confluence of these data provide further evidence of the biologic relevance of these loci to BP regulation and the shared pathophysiology among cardiometabolic traits.

Biological Relevance of Newly Identified Variants Associated with BP

Ciliopathies

Cilia are cellular protuberances found in several tissues including the kidney and brain that serve several purposes including cellular structure, growth, mobility, secretion, and environmental response. New BP candidate genes *SDCCAG8* (locus zoom plot in Figure 2), *RPGRIP1L*, and *TMEM231* encode products that play critical roles in the structure and function of primary cilia including microtubules, basal bodies, and centrosomes. Mutations in these genes can lead to nephronophthisis-related ciliopathy, a monogenic cause of end-stage renal disease. *DPYSL2*, which encodes a microtubule assembly protein, has also been implicated in polycystic kidney disease.⁴⁶ Cilia also contain actin fibers with motor proteins (dynein and kinesin) responsible for the transport of mitochondria and other cargo. *DYNC2LI1* is another dynein-associated protein associated with BP; dynein proteins co-localize in the kidney with the water channel aquaporin-2.⁴⁷

Telomere Maintenance

Since telomere length shortens with successive cell divisions, it has been proposed as a reflection of biologic age.⁴⁸ Several genes with significant association with BP have roles in telomere maintenance including *TNKS*, *PINX1*, *AKTIP* (Tables 2, 3, and 4), and *TERF2IP*. *TNKS*, which is in a locus previously associated with stroke-, obesity-, and diabetes-related traits in other studies (Tables S22–S24), plays a role in the insulin-stimulated translocation of GLUT4 (glucose transporter) to the plasma membrane⁴⁹ and has additionally been associated with cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk and the inflammatory biomarker, C-reactive protein.⁵⁰ *PINX1* has been previously associated with CVD,⁵¹ carotid artery intima-media thickness,⁵² and serum triglyceride levels,⁵³ and has also been associated with obesity- and diabetes-related traits (Tables S23 and S24). *AKTIP* has been previously associated with stroke-related traits in other studies (Table S22). Of note, the association at *TNKS*, *PINX1*, and *AKTIP* with multiple adiposity traits in the GIANT Consortium were strengthened by adjustment for smoking status (Table S26). *TERF2IP* has also been associated with stroke risk⁵⁰ and coronary artery disease traits (Tables S21 and S22).

Central Dopaminergic Signaling

Dopaminergic signaling in the kidney is known to modulate the secretion of renin⁵⁴ and other key regulators of salt-water balance.⁵⁵ There is evidence that central dopamine signaling also modulates BP via mechanisms that are independent of changes in sodium excretion.⁵⁶ Early stages of Parkinson disease, a neurodegenerative disorder characterized by the loss of dopamine-secreting neurons, is characterized by autonomic dysfunction and BP dysregulation.⁵⁷ In the current study, genes involved in central dopamine signaling were associated with BP, including *MSRA* and *EBF2*, which promote the survival and development of dopaminergic neurons, and *GPR19*, a G-protein coupled receptor for the dopamine D₂ receptor. *MSRA* has been previously associated with body mass index after adjustment with smoking status in the GIANT Consortium (Table S26) and *GPR19* with renal function (Table S25) in the COGENT-Kidney Consortium.

Modulators of Vascular Structure and Function

CDKN1B, *BCAR1-CFDPI*, *PXDN*, and *EEA1* are involved in pathways that contribute to angiotensin II-induced vascular hypertrophy. Notably, the association of *PXDN* and *EEA1* with BP is limited to AFR. *CDKN1B* has been previously associated with renal function (Table S25). *BCAR1-CFDPI* has furthermore been identified as a genome-wide significant locus for carotid artery intima-media thickness and coronary artery disease risk (also Table S21);⁵⁸ a potential causal variant in a *BCAR1* regulatory domain has been identified.⁵⁹ *KCNG3* and *KCNE4* are subunit modifiers of voltage-gated potassium channels expressed in vascular smooth muscle cells; activation of these channels leads to vasodilation. *AVPR1A*, which was associated with BP in AFR only, is a receptor for the

vasoconstrictor vasopressin; murine knock-out models are hypotensive with impaired baroreceptor reflexes.⁶⁰

Discussion

This is a large-scale multi-ancestry study to systematically use GxE interactions for identifying trait loci and for evaluating the role of GxE interactions in cardiovascular traits. In stage 1, we performed a genome-wide analysis of gene-smoking interactions in 129,913 individuals across four ancestry groups using 1000 Genomes-imputed data, with follow-up analysis in stage 2 of a small set of promising variants in 480,178 additional individuals across five ancestry groups. We identified 40 known BP loci at genome-wide significance level ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) in stage 1 as well as 15 novel loci that are genome-wide significant in stage 1 and replicated in stage 2 using Bonferroni correction. A combined meta-analysis of stages 1 and 2 results yielded 16 additional known BP loci and 66 additional genome-wide significant loci ($p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$); 13, 35, and 18 loci were identified in European, African, and trans-ancestry, respectively. These 66 additional loci were validated with low false discovery rate (FDR q value < 0.1) (e.g., see Nelson et al.⁶¹).

Identification of novel loci in this GxE analysis demonstrates the importance of incorporating environmental exposures in association discovery. Our newly identified loci including interactions with smoking collectively explained up to 1.7% additional variance in BP (beyond that explained by known BP variants) in several European cohorts. Furthermore, it may be particularly striking that our analyses also identified *VAMP2*, a component of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system (RAAS), as a likely mediator of hypertension. *VAMP2* modulates cAMP-stimulated renin release by renal juxtaglomerular cells⁶² but has not been previously identified, even though other components of RAAS including *NPPA*, *NPPB*, and *SLC17A1-4* have been found in previous GWASs and, indeed, among the 56 known BP loci identified in our study.^{4,63–65}

Several of our newly identified BP loci show evidence for shared pathophysiology with cardiometabolic traits. This is encouraging as hypertension is a frequent comorbidity of a variety of cardiometabolic traits, including dyslipidemia, type 2 diabetes, obesity, and other disorders of substrate metabolism and storage. *XKR6-MIR598* and *MFHAS1* have been associated with serum triglyceride levels.⁶⁶ *LRP6*^{67,68} and *PPP1R3B*⁶⁹ have been associated with serum low-density lipoprotein levels and the metabolic syndrome. *MSRA*⁷⁰ and *SERTAD2*⁷¹ (associated in AFR) have been associated with obesity-related traits and adipocyte function, and *PPP1R3B* has been associated with steatohepatitis.⁷² We also identified the well-known obesity/diabetes locus *FTO*^{73,74} as a newly identified BP locus (Figure 2). In addition to a recent discovery of the effect of an *FTO* variant on *IRX3* and *IRX5*,⁷⁵ variants in intron

1 of *FTO* have been identified that regulate the expression of nearby *RPGRIP1L*,⁷⁴ shown to modulate leptin receptor trafficking and signaling in the hypothalamus.⁷⁶ Variants in and near *XKR6-MIR598*, *MFHAS1*, *MSRA*, and *FTO* have been associated with obesity- and diabetes-related traits in other studies (Tables S23 and S24). Among other variants in genes related to cardiometabolic traits, *VAMP2* plays a role in the trafficking of the GLUT4 glucose receptor to the adipocyte plasma membrane.⁷⁷ Finally, we identified a SNP (in AFR) in *FABP3*, a gene known to regulate mitochondrial β -oxidation.⁷⁸ Studies have shown that serum *FABP3* transcript and protein levels are elevated in animal models and humans with hypertension compared with normotensive controls.^{79,80} Consistent with a recent paper,⁶ our findings provide additional BP variants overlapping with metabolic trait loci.

Some of the newly identified BP loci have been previously reported as suggestive (but not genome-wide significant) for smoking and other addiction traits. Among our newly identified loci, *FTO*, *DPYSL2-ADRA1A*, *AJAP1*, and *SERINC2* have shown suggestive evidence of association with smoking-related traits,^{81,82} illicit drug use,⁸³ and alcohol consumption and dependence.^{84,85} In addition, dopaminergic signaling has been implicated in addictive behaviors.⁸⁶ Moreover, located in an intron of *TNFSF12* (tumor necrosis factor superfamily member), our newly identified variant rs9899183 has many compelling regulatory features supporting its candidacy (Table S12); it resides in a region characterized by promoter histone marks in 23 tissues, in enhancer histone marks in 7 tissues, and by DNase marks in 12 tissues. This variant is also identified as an eQTL for genes *TNFSF12*, *CHRN1*, and *SAT2*; *CHRN1* (1 nicotinic acetylcholine receptor subunit) may also contribute to nicotine dependence.⁸⁷

BP regulation critically involves both central and peripheral regulation via neuroendocrine and hormonal regulation in a complex integrated system that includes the brain, kidneys, adrenal glands, and vasculature. In addition to validating loci known for their involvement in the RAAS system, natriuretic peptide signaling, solute channels, and adrenergic and cholinergic receptor signaling (among others), we identified variants in or near new biological candidates for BP regulation. For example, several of our newly identified loci identified genes that have been previously implicated in monogenic causes of ciliopathy (nephronophthisis-related ciliopathy), a cause of end-stage renal disease in children and young adults.^{88,89} This condition is a genetically heterogeneous autosomal-recessive disease, and heterozygote siblings and other adults with incompletely penetrant versions of this disease may have variable degrees of hypertension, renal insufficiency, obesity, and diabetes.⁹⁰ Newly identified loci also include genes involved in dopaminergic signaling which may act both centrally and in the kidney to modulate BP regulation. Still other newly identified loci reside in or near genes involved in telomere maintenance.

Of the 81 newly identified loci, 10 show genome-wide significant interactions although none were replicated in stage 2. Nine were identified with current smoking status. The ever smoking status is more heterogeneous since the effect of (former) smoking on BP decays over time from cessation.⁹¹ It is therefore not surprising that the analyses with the more homogeneous current smoking (CurSmk) status yielded larger (and more robust) effects on BP than did analyses using ever smoker (EverSmk) status. Although the joint 2 df test succeeded in identifying 71 of the 81 newly identified loci, the precise role of interaction is unclear. It is sobering to note that, although gene-smoking interactions may have helped identify a reasonably large number of the newly identified loci, the sample size we used here for genome-wide analysis in stage 1 appears inadequate for identifying a large number of interaction effects (should they exist) through the 1 df interaction test alone. This may be because, if the pathobiology of BP involves large numbers of interactions, the majority of the interaction effects are likely (relatively) small enough whose identification requires the 2 df joint test and/or require much larger sample sizes for identifying them through the 1 df interaction test. Moreover, smoking is only one of many lifestyle attributes that may have interaction effects on BP.¹² It is possible that some interactions we report here are driven by other lifestyle factors that may be correlated with smoking. A follow-up study (such as Young et al.⁹² and Tyrrell et al.⁹³) that jointly examines multiple lifestyle factors can shed light on further understanding of interaction effects on BP.

Several large consortia-based BP GWAS papers have been published in recent years, dramatically increasing the number of BP loci. We treated 158 as known BP loci, which included the 71 loci that were reported by three recent papers.^{5–7} Of the 56 known BP loci we identified, 8 overlap with these newly identified 71 loci. Hoffmann et al.⁹⁴ reported 75 novel loci (and 241 additional loci not validated) based on >300,000 individuals. The use of repeated measurements, beside the large sample size, appears to be responsible for the large number of novel loci discovered. Their study demonstrates the power of large sample sizes and repeated measurements. Warren et al.⁹⁵ reported 107 validated loci. As shown in Table S28 in detail, nine of our newly identified loci include variants reported by these two papers.^{94,95} Based on African ancestry, Liang et al. reported three validated BP loci,⁹⁶ one of which overlaps with our newly identified loci.

35 loci were identified in African ancestry meta-analyses. As previous discoveries of BP loci were mostly in European ancestry, some using very large sample sizes, it may be harder to detect newly identified signals in European ancestry in our study. There are also more opportunities to identify lower frequency variants in African ancestry meta-analysis because there are more of these variants in this genetically more diverse population. However, because of the highly limited sample sizes available for African ancestry in stage 2, genome-wide significant loci

in stage 1 African ancestry could not be formally replicated in stage 2. Nevertheless, there is evidence supporting the validity of many of the African-specific newly identified loci: African-specific QQ plots were very similar with and without the known BP loci (Figures S10 and S12). Genomic control values are all close to 1, and the top signals are away from the expected null line in the QQ plots, suggesting that these may be real associations. Forest plots at the African-specific loci (Figure S13) were not heterogeneous across cohorts. For most loci, there exists at least one non-African ancestry showing effects in the same direction as those in African ancestry. They may also relate at least in part to unique smoking behaviors or BP regulation or both in African ancestry. However, these African-specific loci require further validation.

There are several limitations in this large-scale multi-ancestry genome-wide investigation incorporating gene-smoking interactions. First, main effect only analysis without regard to smoking was not performed, and this limits our ability to resolve whether any of our loci newly identified through the 2 df joint test could be found without smoking or gene-smoking interaction in the model. Second, although the strategy of clumping with a stringent LD threshold ($r^2 > 0.1$) in addition to large physical distance threshold (± 1 Mb) is reasonable for inferring independent loci, conditional analysis of summary statistics from interaction analysis (similar to GCTA) would be more rigorous; however, such methods do not exist currently. Third, the relatively smaller stage 2 sample sizes available in African and Hispanic ancestries limit our ability to formally replicate the loci that were newly identified in stage 1 in those ancestries (including the 10 interactions). Fourth, power for discovery using interactions may be limited even in this reasonably large sample size. Fifth, if there is a G-C correlation, a potential confounding of GxE with interaction between covariate and smoking exposure (CxE) may exist, which can inflate type I error of the GxE interaction test;^{97,98} using a stratified model may help overcome such confounding. Sixth, our use of the fixed effect meta-analysis for trans-ancestry analysis may have limited the power in the presence of heterogeneous effects across ancestries; however, specialized trans-ancestry methods for GxE interactions do not exist. Seventh, subjects were grouped into each ancestry based on self-reported information instead of genetically computed ancestry. Finally, the use of multiple hypothesis tests, multiple phenotypes and exposures, and multiple ancestries may contribute to inflation at some level. Striking a balance between false positives and false negatives, especially in the context of interactions, remains a challenge.

In summary, our study identified a total of 137 genome-wide significant loci; 56 known loci, 15 new loci identified in stage 1 and formally replicated in stage 2, and 66 additional BP loci identified through the combined analysis of stages 1 and 2 and validated through low FDR. Our ability to identify this many loci is likely due to four

factors: focus on gene-smoking interactions, consideration of multiple ancestries, the large aggregate sample sizes available, and the densely imputed data using the recent 1000 Genomes Project reference panel in stage 1 analysis. The 10 newly identified loci with significant interactions showed larger effects on BP in smokers. 35 loci were identified only in African ancestry, highlighting the importance of pursuing genetic studies in diverse populations. In addition to evidence for shared pathophysiology with cardio-metabolic traits, smoking, and other addiction traits, our results provide compelling evidence for biological candidates for BP regulation such as modulators of vascular structure and function, ciliopathies, telomere maintenance, and central dopaminergic signaling. Our findings demonstrate how the interplay between genes and environment can help identify loci, open up new avenues for investigation about BP homeostasis, and highlight the promise of gene-lifestyle interactions for more in-depth genetic and environmental dissection of BP and other complex traits.

Supplemental Data

Supplemental Data include Supplemental Notes, 17 figures, and 28 tables and can be found with this article online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajhg.2018.01.015>.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no competing financial interests except for the following. B.M.P. serves on the DSMB of a clinical trial funded by the manufacturer (Zoll LifeCor) and on the Steering Committee of the Yale Open Data Access Project funded by Johnson & Johnson; O.H.F. received grants from Metagenics (on women's health and epigenetics) and from Nestle (on child health); L.J.B. is listed as an inventor on Issued U.S. Patent 8,080,371, "Markers for Addiction" covering the use of certain SNPs in determining the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of addiction; P.S. has received research awards from Pfizer Inc., is a consultant for Mundipharma Co. (Cambridge, UK), is a patent holder with Biocompatibles UK Ltd. (Farnham, Surrey, UK) (Title: Treatment of eye diseases using encapsulated cells encoding and secreting neuroprotective factor and/or anti-angiogenic factor; Patent number: 20120263794), and has a patent application with University of Heidelberg (Heidelberg, Germany) (Title: Agents for use in the therapeutic or prophylactic treatment of myopia or hyperopia; Europäische Patentanmeldung 15 000 771.4); P.W.F. has been a paid consultant for Eli Lilly and Sanofi Aventis and has received research support from several pharmaceutical companies as part of a European Union Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) project; M.A.N.'s participation is supported by a consulting contract between Data Tecnica Internation and the National Institute on Aging (NIH, Bethesda, MD, USA), and he also consults for Illumina, Inc., the Michael J. Fox Foundation, and University of California Healthcare among others; and M.J.C. is Chief Scientist for Genomics England, a UK government company.

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Web Resources

dbSNP, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/SNP/>
DEPICT, <https://data.broadinstitute.org/mpg/depict>
GeneGo, <https://clarivate.com/product-category/life-sciences/>
GSEA, <http://software.broadinstitute.org/gsea/msigdb/annotate.jsp>
GTEx Portal, <https://www.gtexportal.org/home/>
HaploReg, <http://www.broadinstitute.org/mammals/haploreg/haploreg.php>
Literature Lab, <http://www.acumentia.com>
LocusZoom, <http://locuszoom.sph.umich.edu/locuszoom/>
METAL, http://genome.sph.umich.edu/wiki/METAL_Documentation
National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) GWAS catalog, <https://www.genome.gov/gwastudies/>
NCBI Gene, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gene>
RegulomeDB, <http://RegulomeDB.org/>
Roadmap, <http://www.roadmapepigenomics.org/>

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Supplemental Data

A Large-Scale Multi-ancestry Genome-wide Study

Accounting for Smoking Behavior Identifies

Multiple Significant Loci for Blood Pressure

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Supplemental Notes

More Details on the Quality Control (QC)

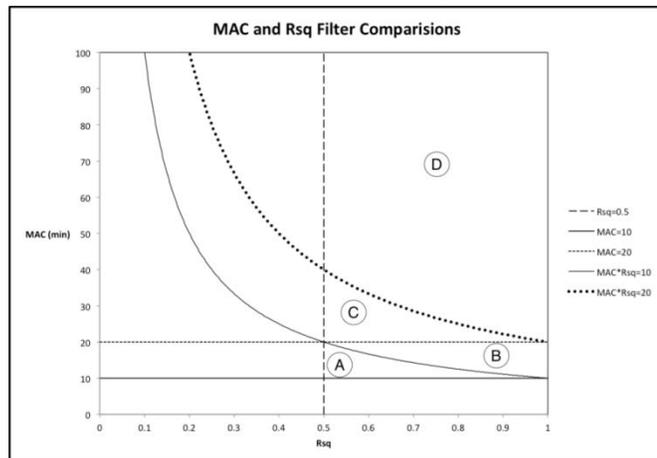
Cohorts participating in this study have ample experience in main-effect based GWAS for multiple phenotypes and are very familiar with validated approaches for quality control (QC) of phenotype, genotype, and imputed data. However, because of the use of interaction models and imputed data using the 1000 Genome Project, we were particularly thorough on QC steps. We relied heavily on the package EasyQC (Winkler et al, Nature Protocols 2014), which was extended for interaction analysis with the 1000 Genomes-based imputed data by the developer. In addition, we contrasted results from the joint model and stratified models in Stage 1 cohorts, as explained more in Sung et al (Genetic Epidemiology 2016). Any unusual findings or patterns were resolved together with the study analyst; in some cases, cohorts were asked to repeat the analysis. The Supplemental Material in Rao et al (Circulation Cardiovascular Genetics 2017; pages 21-23) covers these QC steps in more detail.

One of the latter QC steps involved determining which filter was most appropriate for excluding unstable cohort-specific results that reflect small sample size, low MAF, or low imputation quality measures. Among the various filters considered, we finally used

$$DF = \min(\text{MAC}_0, \text{MAC}_1) * \text{imputation quality measure},$$

where MAC is the minor allele count in each stratum: $\text{MAC}_0 = 2 * \text{MAF}_{E0} * N_{E0}$ and $\text{MAC}_1 = 2 * \text{MAF}_{E1} * N_{E1}$, for the unexposed (E0) and exposed group, respectively. In addition to imputation quality measure ≥ 0.5 , we considered the following four filtering thresholds.

Filters	Area (in Figure right)
1 $\min(\text{MAC}_0, \text{MAC}_1) \geq 10$	A+B+C+D
2 $DF \geq 10$	B+C+D
3 $\min(\text{MAC}_0, \text{MAC}_1) \geq 20$	C+D
4 $DF \geq 20$	D



After reviewing the QQ plots for each section (A, B, C, D) separately (Figures S14-S17), we decided to use $DF \geq 20$. We could clearly see that the QQ plots for section D (5th column in QQ plots) were much better behaved.

Stage 1 (Genome-wide Discovery) Study Descriptions

Brief descriptions are provided below for each of the discovery studies some of which are based outside the United States.:

AGES (Age Gene/Environment Susceptibility Reykjavik Study): The AGES Reykjavik study originally comprised a random sample of 30,795 men and women born in 1907-1935 and living in Reykjavik in 1967. A total of 19,381 people attended, resulting in a 71% recruitment rate. The study sample was divided into six groups by birth year and birth date within month. One group was designated for longitudinal follow up and was examined in all stages; another was designated as a control group and was not included in examinations until 1991. Other groups were invited to participate in specific stages of the study. Between 2002 and 2006, the AGES Reykjavik study re-examined 5,764 survivors of the original cohort who had participated before in the Reykjavik Study. The midlife data blood pressure measurement was taken from stage 3 of the Reykjavik Study (1974-1979), if available. Half of the cohort attended during this period. Otherwise an observation was selected closest in time to the stage 3 visit. The supine blood pressure was measured twice by a nurse using a mercury sphygmomanometer after 5 minutes rest following World Health Organization recommendations.

ARIC (Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities): The ARIC study is a population-based prospective cohort study of cardiovascular disease sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). ARIC included 15,792 individuals, predominantly European American and African American, aged 45-64 years at baseline (1987-89), chosen by probability sampling from four US communities. Cohort members completed three additional triennial follow-up examinations and a fifth exam in 2011-2013. The ARIC study has been described in detail previously (The ARIC Investigators. The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) study: Design and objectives. *Am J Epidemiol.* 1989;129:687-702). Blood pressure was measured using a standardized Hawksley random-zero mercury column sphygmomanometer with participants in a sitting position after a resting period of 5 minutes. The size of the cuff was chosen according to the arm circumference. Three sequential recordings for systolic and diastolic blood pressure were obtained; the mean of the last two measurements was used in this analysis, discarding the first reading. Blood pressure lowering medication use was recorded from the medication history.

Baependi Heart Study (Brazil): The Baependi Heart Study, is an ongoing family-based cohort conducted in a rural town of the state of Minas Gerais. The study has enrolled approximate 2,200 individuals (over 10% of the town's adult population) and 10-year follow up period of longitudinal data. Briefly, probands were selected at random across 11 out of the 12 census districts in Baependi. After enrolment, the proband's first-degree (parents, siblings, and offspring), second-degree (half-siblings, grandparents/grandchildren, uncles/aunts, nephews/nieces, and double cousins), and third-degree (first cousins, great uncles/aunts, and great nephews/nieces) relatives, and his/her respective spouse's relatives resident both within Baependi (municipal and rural area) and surrounding towns were invited to participate. Only individuals age 18 and older were eligible to participate in the study. The study is conducted from a clinic/office in an easily accessible sector of the town, where the questionnaires were completed. A broad range of phenotypes ranging from cardiovascular, neurocognitive, psychiatric, imaging, physiologic and several layers of endophenotypes like metabolomics and lipidomics have been collected throughout the years. Details about follow-up visits and available data can be found in the cohort profile paper (PMID: 18430212). DNA samples were genotyped using the Affymetrix 6.0 genechip. After quality control, the data were prephased using SHAPEIT and imputed using IMPUTE2 based on 1000 Genomes haplotypes.

BioMe Biobank (BioMe Biobank of Institute for Personalized Medicine at Mount Sinai): The BioMe Biobank, founded in September 2007, is an ongoing, consented electronic medical record (EMR)-linked bio- and data repository that enrolls participants non-selectively from the Mount Sinai

Medical Center patient population. The BioMe Biobank currently (Winter 2015) comprises over 31,000 participants from diverse ancestries characterized by a broad spectrum of (longitudinal) biomedical traits. On average 400 new participants are consented each month. BioMe participants represent the broad ancestral, ethnic and socioeconomic diversity with a distinct and population-specific disease burden, characteristic of Northern Manhattan communities served by Mount Sinai Hospital. Enrolled participants consent to be followed throughout their clinical care (past, present, and future) at Mount Sinai in real-time, integrating their genomic information with their electronic health record for discovery research and clinical care implementation. BioMe participants are predominantly of African, Hispanic/Latino, and European ancestry. Participants who self-identify as Hispanic/Latino further report to be of Puerto Rican (39%), Dominican (23%), Central/South American (17%), Mexican (5%) or other Hispanic (16%) ancestry. More than 40% of European ancestry participants are genetically determined to be of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry.

The IRB-approved BioMe Biobank consent permits use of samples and de-identified linkable past, present and future clinical information from EMRs; re-contacting participants for enrollment in future research; unlimited duration of storage, and access to clinical information from the entire medical records, as well as local and external sharing of specimens and data.

The BioMe Biobank has a longitudinal design as participants consent to make any EMR data from past (dating back as far as 2003), present and future inpatient or outpatient encounters available for research. The median number of clinical encounters per participant is 21, reflecting predominant enrollment of participants with common chronic conditions from primary care facilities. Mount Sinai's system-wide Epic EMR implementation captures a full spectrum of biomedical phenotypes, including clinical outcomes, covariate and exposure data. This clinical information is complemented by detailed information on ancestry, residence history, familial medical history, education, socio-economic status, physical activity, smoking, alcohol use, and weight history being collected in a systematic manner by interview-based questionnaire at time of enrollment. Phenotype harmonization and validation is critical to facilitate consortium-wide analyses. By applying advanced medical informatics and data mining tools, high-quality and validated phenotype data can be culled from Mount Sinai's Epic EMR. Fully-implemented phenotype algorithms include; T2D, CKD, CAD, lipid disorders, peripheral artery disease, resistant hypertension, blood cell traits, abdominal aortic aneurism, venous thromboembolism among others (see also Phenotype KnowledgeBase ([PheKB](http://phekb.org)) of the eMERGE Network (<http://emerge.mc.vanderbilt.edu/emerge-network>)).

A total of 14,017 participants have been genotyped for both GWAS (11,150 Illumina OmniExpress BeadChip, 2,867 Affymetrix Human SNP Array 6.0) and ExomeChip (Illumina HumanExome v1.0 BeadChip) arrays funded by institutional sources. An additional 16,000 BioMe participants are scheduled for genotyping using the Illumina MEGA Chip (by April 2015), funded by NHGRI through our PAGEII grant (U01HG007417) (n=12,500) and through institutional funds (n=3,500).

CARDIA (Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults): CARDIA is a prospective multicenter study with 5,115 adults Caucasian and African American participants of the age group 18-30 years, recruited from four centers at the baseline examination in 1985-1986. The recruitment was done from the total community in Birmingham, AL, from selected census tracts in Chicago, IL and Minneapolis, MN; and from the Kaiser Permanente health plan membership in Oakland, CA. The details of the study design for the CARDIA study have been previously published. Eight examinations have been completed since initiation of the study, respectively in the years 0, 2, 5, 7, 10, 15, 20 and 25. Written informed consent was obtained from participants at each examination and all study protocols were approved by the institutional review boards of the participating institutions. Systolic and diastolic blood pressure was measured in triplicate on the right arm using a random-zero sphygmomanometer with the participant seated and following a 5-min. rest. The average of the second and third measurements was taken as the blood pressure value. Blood pressure medication use was obtained by questionnaire.

CHS (Cardiovascular Health Study): CHS is a population-based cohort study of risk factors for cardiovascular disease in adults 65 years of age or older conducted across four field centers [PMID: 1669507]. The original predominantly European ancestry cohort of 5,201 persons was recruited in 1989-1990 from random samples of the Medicare eligibility lists and an additional predominately African-American cohort of 687 persons was enrolled in 1992-93 for a total sample of 5,888. Research staff with central training in blood pressure measurement assessed repeated right-arm seated systolic and diastolic blood pressure levels at baseline with a Hawksley random-zero sphygmomanometer. Blood samples were drawn from all participants at their baseline examination and DNA was subsequently extracted from available samples. European ancestry participants were excluded from the GWAS study sample due to prevalent coronary heart disease, congestive heart failure, peripheral vascular disease, valvular heart disease, stroke, or transient ischemic attack at baseline. After QC, genotyping was successful for 3271 European ancestry and 823 African-American participants. CHS was approved by institutional review committees at each site and individuals in the present analysis gave informed consent including consent to use of genetic information for the study of cardiovascular disease.

ERF (Erasmus Rucphen Family study): Erasmus Rucphen Family is a family based study that includes inhabitants of a genetically isolated community in the South-West of the Netherlands, studied as part of the Genetic Research in Isolated Population (GRIP) program. The goal of the study is to identify the risk factors in the development of complex disorders. Study population includes approximately 3,000 individuals who are living descendants of 22 couples who lived in the isolate between 1850 and 1900 and had at least six children baptized in the community church. All data were collected between 2002 and 2005. All participants gave informed consent, and the Medical Ethics Committee of the Erasmus University Medical Centre approved the study.

FamHS (Family Heart Study): The NHLBI FamHS study design, collection of phenotypes and covariates as well as clinical examination have been previously described (<https://dsgweb.wustl.edu/fhsc/>; PMID: 8651220). In brief, the FamHS recruited 1,200 families (approximately 6,000 individuals), half randomly sampled, and half selected because of an excess of coronary heart disease (CHD) or risk factor abnormalities as compared with age- and sex-specific population rates. The participants were sampled from four population-based parent studies: the Framingham Heart Study, the Utah Family Tree Study, and two centers for the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities study (ARIC: Minneapolis, and Forsyth County, NC). These individuals attended a clinic exam (1994-1996) and a broad range of phenotypes were assessed in the general domains of CHD, atherosclerosis, cardiac and vascular function, inflammation and hemostasis, lipids and lipoproteins, blood pressure, diabetes and insulin resistance, pulmonary function, diet, education, socioeconomic status, habitual behavior, physical activity, anthropometry, medical history and medication use. Approximately 8 years later, study participants belonging to the largest pedigrees were invited for a second clinical exam (2002-04). The most important CHD risk factors were measured again, including lipids, parameters of glucose metabolism, blood pressure, anthropometry, and several biochemical and hematologic markers. In addition, a computed tomography examination provided measures of coronary and aortic calcification, and abdominal and liver fat burden. Medical history and medication use was updated. A total of 2,756 European ancestry subjects in 510 extended random and high CHD risk families were studied. Also, 633 African ancestry subjects were recruited at ARIC field center at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Informed consent was obtained from all participants.

FHS (Framingham Heart Study): FHS began in 1948 with the recruitment of an original cohort of 5,209 men and women (mean age 44 years; 55 percent women). In 1971 a second generation of study participants was enrolled; this cohort (mean age 37 years; 52% women) consisted of 5,124 children and spouses of children of the original cohort. A third generation cohort of 4,095 children of offspring cohort participants (mean age 40 years; 53 percent women) was enrolled in 2002-2005 and are seen every 4 to 8 years. Details of study designs for the three cohorts are summarized elsewhere. At each clinic visit, a medical history was obtained with a focus on cardiovascular content, and participants

underwent a physical examination including measurement of height and weight from which BMI was calculated. Systolic and diastolic blood pressures were measured twice by a physician on the left arm of the resting and seated participant using a mercury column sphygmomanometer. Blood pressures were recorded to the nearest even number. The means of two separate systolic and diastolic blood pressure readings at each clinic examination were used for statistical analyses.

GENOA (Genetic Epidemiology Network of Arteriopathy): GENOA is one of four networks in the NHLBI Family-Blood Pressure Program (FBPP). [The FBPP Investigators. Multi-center genetic study of hypertension: The Family Blood Pressure Program (FBPP). *Hypertension* 2002;39:3-9.; Daniels PR, Kardia SL, Hanis CL, Brown CA, Hutchinson R, Boerwinkle E, Turner ST; Genetic Epidemiology Network of Arteriopathy study. Familial aggregation of hypertension treatment and control in the Genetic Epidemiology Network of Arteriopathy (GENOA) study. *Am J Med.* 2004 May 15;116(10):676-81. PubMed PMID: 15121494.] GENOA's long-term objective is to elucidate the genetics of target organ complications of hypertension, including both atherosclerotic and arteriolosclerotic complications involving the heart, brain, kidneys, and peripheral arteries. The longitudinal GENOA Study recruited European-American and African-American sibships with at least 2 individuals with clinically diagnosed essential hypertension before age 60 years. All other members of the sibship were invited to participate regardless of their hypertension status. Participants were diagnosed with hypertension if they had either 1) a previous clinical diagnosis of hypertension by a physician with current anti-hypertensive treatment, or 2) an average systolic blood pressure ≥ 140 mm Hg or diastolic blood pressure ≥ 90 mm Hg based on the second and third readings at the time of their clinic visit. Exclusion criteria were secondary hypertension, alcoholism or drug abuse, pregnancy, insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, or active malignancy. During the first exam (1995-2000), 1,583 European Americans from Rochester, MN and 1,854 African Americans from Jackson, MS were examined. Between 2000 and 2005, 1,241 of the European Americans and 1,482 of the African Americans returned for a second examination. Because African-American probands for GENOA were recruited through the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Jackson field center participants, we excluded ARIC participants from analyses.

GenSalt (Genetic Epidemiology Network of Salt Sensitivity): GenSalt is a multi-center, family based study designed to identify, through dietary sodium and potassium intervention, salt-sensitivity susceptibility genes which may underlie essential hypertension in rural Han Chinese families. Approximately 629 families with at least one 'proband' with high blood pressure were recruited and tested for a wide variety of physiological, metabolic and biochemical measures at baseline and at multiple times during the 3-week intervention. The intervention consisted of one week on a low sodium diet, followed by one week on a high sodium diet, and finally one week on a high sodium diet with a potassium supplement.

GOLDN (Genetics of Diet and Lipid Lowering Network): GOLDN is a multi-center family pharmacogenetic study that is investigating gene- environment interactions on lipid profiles. 1,200 subjects in extended pedigrees were measured before and after two environmental exposures: 1) a dietary fat challenge to assess genetic regulators of fat uptake and clearance and 2) a 3 week clinical trial of fenofibrate to assess pharmacogenetic influences on response to treatment. The goals of the study are to identify and characterize genetic loci that predict the lipid profile treatment responses. <https://dsgweb.wustl.edu/PROJECTS/MP5.html>

HANDLS (Healthy Aging in Neighborhoods of Diversity across the Life Span): HANDLS is a community-based, longitudinal epidemiologic study examining the influences of race and socioeconomic status (SES) on the development of age-related health disparities among a sample of socioeconomically diverse African Americans and whites. This unique study will assess over a 20-year period physical parameters and also evaluate genetic, biologic, demographic, and psychosocial, parameters of African American and white participants in higher and lower SES to understand the driving factors behind persistent black-white health disparities in overall longevity, cardiovascular disease, and cognitive decline. The study recruited 3,722 participants from Baltimore, MD with a mean

age of 47.7 years, 2,200 African Americans and 1,522 whites, with 41% reporting household incomes below the 125% poverty delimiter.

Genotyping was done on a subset of self-reporting African American participants by the Laboratory of Neurogenetics, National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health (NIH). A larger genotyping effort included a small subset of self-reporting European ancestry samples. This research was supported by the Intramural Research Program of the NIH, NIA and the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Health ABC (Health, Aging, and Body Composition): Cohort description: The Health ABC study is a prospective cohort study investigating the associations between body composition, weight-related health conditions, and incident functional limitation in older adults. Health ABC enrolled well-functioning, community-dwelling black (n=1281) and white (n=1794) men and women aged 70-79 years between April 1997 and June 1998. Participants were recruited from a random sample of white and all black Medicare eligible residents in the Pittsburgh, PA, and Memphis, TN, metropolitan areas. Participants have undergone annual exams and semi-annual phone interviews. The current study sample consists of 1559 white participants who attended the second exam in 1998-1999 with available genotyping data.

Genotyping: Genotyping was performed by the Center for Inherited Disease Research (CIDR) using the Illumina Human1M-Duo BeadChip system. Samples were excluded from the dataset for the reasons of sample failure, genotypic sex mismatch, and first-degree relative of an included individual based on genotype data. Genotyping was successful in 1663 Caucasians. Analysis was restricted to SNPs with minor allele frequency $\geq 1\%$, call rate $\geq 97\%$ and HWE $p \geq 10^{-6}$. Genotypes were available on 914,263 high quality SNPs for imputation based on the HapMap CEU (release 22, build 36) using the MACH software (version 1.0.16). A total of 2,543,888 imputed SNPs were analyzed for association with vitamin D levels.

Association analysis: Linear regression models were used to generate cohort-specific residuals of naturally log transformed vitamin D levels adjusted for age, sex, BMI and season defined as summer (June-August), fall (September-November), winter (December to February) and spring (March to May) standardized to have mean 0 and variance of 1. Association between the additively coded SNP genotypes and the vitamin D residuals standardized was assessed using linear regression models. For imputed SNPs, expected number of minor alleles (i.e. dosage) was used in assessing association with the vitamin D residuals.

HERITAGE (Health, Risk Factors, Exercise Training and Genetics): The HERITAGE is the only known family-based study of exercise intervention to evaluate the role of genes and sequence variants involved in the response to a physically active lifestyle. The current study is based on the data collected at baseline of the study from 99 White families (244 males, 255 females). All subjects were required to be sedentary and free of chronic diseases at baseline. There are over 18 trait domains (e.g. dietary, lipids and lipoproteins, glucose and insulin metabolism [fasting and IVGTT], steroids, body composition and body fat distribution, cardiorespiratory fitness), for a grand total of over one thousand variables. Moreover, most of the outcome traits were measured twice on two separate days both at baseline and after exercise training was completed. Marker data include a genome-wide linkage scan and GWAS, in addition to a large number of candidate genes.

HUFS (Howard University Family Study): HUFS followed a population-based selection strategy designed to be representative of African American families living in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The major objectives of the HUFS were to study the genetic and environmental basis of common complex diseases including hypertension, obesity and associated phenotypes. Participants were sought through door-to-door canvassing, advertisements in local print media and at health fairs and other community gatherings. In order to maximize the utility of this cohort for the study of multiple

common traits, families were not ascertained based on any phenotype. During a clinical examination, demographic information was collected by interview.

HyperGEN (Hypertension Genetic Epidemiology Network): HyperGEN is a family-based study that looks at the genetic causes of hypertension and related conditions in EA and AA subjects. HyperGEN recruited hypertensive sibships, along with their normotensive adult offspring, and an age-matched random sample. HyperGEN has collected data on 2,471 Caucasian-American subjects and 2,300 African-American subjects, from five field centers in Alabama, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, and Utah.

IGMM (Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine): IGMM oversees three participating studies: CROATIA-Korcula; CROATIA-Vis; GS:SFHS (Generation Scotland: Scottish Family Health Study).
CROATIA-Korcula: The CROATIA-Korcula study is a family-based, cross-sectional study in the isolated island of Korcula that included 965 examinees aged 18-95. Blood samples were collected in 2007 along with many clinical and biochemical measures and lifestyle and health questionnaires.
CROATIA-Vis: The CROATIA-Vis study is a family-based, cross-sectional study in the isolated island of Vis that included 1,056 examinees aged 8-93. Blood samples were collected in 2003 and 2004 along with many clinical and biochemical measures and lifestyle and health questionnaires.
GS:SFHS: The Generation Scotland (www.generationscotland.org) Scottish Family Health Study (GS:SFHS) is a family-based genetic epidemiology cohort with DNA, other biological samples (serum, urine and cryopreserved whole blood) and socio-demographic and clinical data from approximately 24,000 volunteers, aged 18-98 years, in ~7,000 family groups. An important feature of GS:SFHS is the breadth of phenotype information, including detailed data on cognitive function, personality traits and mental health. Although data collection was cross-sectional, GS:SFHS becomes a longitudinal cohort as a result of the ability to link to routine NHS data, using the community health index (CHI) number.

JHS (Jackson Heart Study): The Jackson Heart Study is a longitudinal, community-based observational cohort study investigating the role of environmental and genetic factors in the development of cardiovascular disease in African Americans. Between 2000 and 2004, a total of 5301 participants were recruited from a tri-county area (Hinds, Madison, and Rankin Counties) that encompasses Jackson, MS. Details of the design and recruitment for the Jackson Heart Study cohort has been previously published.¹⁻³ Briefly, approximately 30% of participants were former members of the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) study. The remainder were recruited by either 1) random selection from the Accudata list, 2) commercial listing, 3) a constrained volunteer sample, in which recruitment was distributed among defined demographic cells in proportions designed to mirror those in the overall population, or through the Jackson Heart Study Family Study.

1. Wyatt SB, Diekelmann N, Henderson F, Andrew ME, Billingsley G, Felder SH et al. A community-driven model of research participation: the Jackson Heart Study Participant Recruitment and Retention Study. *Ethn Dis* 2003; 13(4):438-455.
2. Taylor HA, Jr., Wilson JG, Jones DW, et al. Toward resolution of cardiovascular health disparities in African Americans: design and methods of the Jackson Heart Study. *Ethn Dis* 2005; 15:S6-17.
3. Fuqua SR, Wyatt SB, Andrew ME, et al. Recruiting African-American research participation in the Jackson Heart Study: methods, response rates, and sample description. *Ethn Dis* 2005; 15:S6-29.

Maywood-Loyola Study: Participants were self-identified African Americans from a working class suburb of Chicago, Illinois, USA who were enrolled in studies of BP at the Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Illinois, USA as part of the International Collaborative Study on Hypertension in Blacks (ICSHIB) which is described in detail elsewhere (**PMID: 9103091**). Briefly, nuclear families were

identified through middle-aged probands who were not ascertained based on any phenotype. Thereafter all available first-degree relatives 18 years old and above were enrolled into the study cohort of families. A screening exam was completed by trained and certified research staff using a standardized protocol (PMID: 9103091 & 10234089). Information was obtained on medical history, age, body weight and height. Protocols were reviewed and approved by the IRB at the Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine prior to recruitment activities. This present study included unrelated adults sampled and for whom information on anthropometrics, BP and use of antihypertensive medication was available. BP measurements were obtained using an oscillometric device, previously evaluated in our field settings (PMID: 10234089). Three measurements were taken three minutes apart and the average of the final two was used in the analysis. Individuals with SBP \geq 140 mmHg, DBP \geq 90 mmHg or on anti-hypertensive medication at time of exam were defined as hypertensive. Participants with hypertension were offered treatment after detection at the screening exam.

Maywood-Nigeria Study: The sampling frame for the Nigeria cohort was also provided by the International Collaborative Study on Hypertension in Blacks (ICSHIB) as described in detail elsewhere (PMID: 9103091). Study participants were recruited from Igbo-Ora and Ibadan in southwest Nigeria as part of a long-term study on the environmental and genetic factors underlying hypertension. The base cohort consists of over 15,000 participants with information available on anthropometrics, BP and use of antihypertensive medication. BP measurements followed the same protocol described in the Loyola-Maywood study. This present study included unrelated adults samples from the cohort and some hypertensive participants who were recruited as controls in the Africa-America Diabetes Mellitus (AADM) Study recruited from Ibadan in similar neighborhoods (PMID: 11164120). Both projects were reviewed and approved by the sponsoring US institutions (Loyola University Chicago and Howard University) and the University of Ibadan. All participants signed informed consent administered in either English or Yoruba. BP measurements were obtained using an oscillometric device, previously evaluated in our field settings (PMID: 10234089). Three measurements were taken three minutes apart and the average of the final two was used in the analysis. Individuals with SBP \geq 140 mmHg, DBP \geq 90 mmHg or on anti-hypertensive medication at time of exam were defined as hypertensive. Participants with hypertension were offered treatment after detection at the screening exam.

MESA (Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis): The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA) is a study of the characteristics of subclinical cardiovascular disease and the risk factors that predict progression to clinically overt cardiovascular disease or progression of the subclinical disease. MESA consisted of a diverse, population-based sample of an initial 6,814 asymptomatic men and women aged 45-84. 38 percent of the recruited participants were white, 28 percent African American, 22 percent Hispanic, and 12 percent Asian, predominantly of Chinese descent. Participants were recruited from six field centers across the United States: Wake Forest University, Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Minnesota, Northwestern University and University of California - Los Angeles. Participants are being followed for identification and characterization of cardiovascular disease events, including acute myocardial infarction and other forms of coronary heart disease (CHD), stroke, and congestive heart failure; for cardiovascular disease interventions; and for mortality. The first examination took place over two years, from July 2000 - July 2002. It was followed by four examination periods that were 17-20 months in length. Participants have been contacted every 9 to 12 months throughout the study to assess clinical morbidity and mortality.

Bild DE, Bluemke DA, Burke GL, Detrano R, Diez Roux AV, Folsom AR, Greenland P, Jacob DR Jr, Kronmal R, Liu K, Nelson JC, O'Leary D, Saad MF, Shea S, Szklo M, Tracy RP. Multi-ethnic study of atherosclerosis: objectives and design. *Am J Epidemiol.* 2002 Nov 1;156(9):871-81. PubMed PMID: 12397006.

NEO (The Netherlands Epidemiology of Obesity study): The NEO was designed for extensive phenotyping to investigate pathways that lead to obesity-related diseases. The NEO study is a population-based, prospective cohort study that includes 6,671 individuals aged 45–65 years, with an

oversampling of individuals with overweight or obesity. At baseline, information on demography, lifestyle, and medical history have been collected by questionnaires. In addition, samples of 24-h urine, fasting and postprandial blood plasma and serum, and DNA were collected. Genotyping was performed using the Illumina HumanCoreExome chip, which was subsequently imputed to the 1000 genome reference panel. Participants underwent an extensive physical examination, including anthropometry, electrocardiography, spirometry, and measurement of the carotid artery intima-media thickness by ultrasonography. In random subsamples of participants, magnetic resonance imaging of abdominal fat, pulse wave velocity of the aorta, heart, and brain, magnetic resonance spectroscopy of the liver, indirect calorimetry, dual energy X-ray absorptiometry, or accelerometry measurements were performed. The collection of data started in September 2008 and completed at the end of September 2012. Participants are currently being followed for the incidence of obesity-related diseases and mortality.

Pelotas Birth Cohort Study (The 1982 Pelotas Birth Cohort Study, Brazil): The maternity hospitals in Pelotas, a southern Brazilian city (current population ~330,000), were visited daily in the year of 1982. The 5,914 liveborns whose families lived in the urban area were examined and their mothers interviewed. Information was obtained for more than 99% of the livebirths. These subjects have been followed-up at the following mean ages: 11.3 months (all children born from January to April 1982; n=1457), 19.4 months (entire cohort; n=4934), 43.1 months (entire cohort; n=4742), 13.1 years (random subsample; n=715), 14.7 years (systematic subsample; n=1076); 18.2 (male cohorts attending to compulsory Army recruitment examination; n=2250), 18.9 (systematic subsample; n=1031), 22.8 years (entire cohort; n=4297) and 30.2 years (entire cohort; n=3701). Details about follow-up visits and available data can be found in the two Cohort Profile papers (PMID: 16373375 and 25733577). DNA samples (collected at the mean age of 22.8 years) were genotyped for ~2.5 million of SNPs using the Illumina HumanOmni2.5-8v1 array (which includes autosomal, X and Y chromosomes, and mitochondrial variants). After quality control, the data were prephased using SHAPEIT and imputed using IMPUTE2 based on 1000 Genomes haplotypes.

RS (Rotterdam Study): The Rotterdam Study is a prospective, population-based cohort study among individuals living in the well-defined Ommoord district in the city of Rotterdam in The Netherlands. The aim of the study is to determine the occurrence of cardiovascular, neurological, ophthalmic, endocrine, hepatic, respiratory, and psychiatric diseases in elderly people. The cohort was initially defined in 1990 among approximately 7,900 persons, aged 55 years and older, who underwent a home interview and extensive physical examination at the baseline and during follow-up rounds every 3-4 years (RS-I). Cohort was extended in 2000/2001 (RS-II, 3,011 individuals aged 55 years and older) and 2006/2008 (RS-III, 3,932 subjects, aged 45 and older). Written informed consent was obtained from all participants and the Medical Ethics Committee of the Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, approved the study.

SCHS-CHD (Singapore Chinese Health Study - Coronary Heart Disease): SCHS-CHD is a case-control study of coronary heart disease that was nested within the Singapore Chinese Health Study (SCHS), a prospective cohort study of 63,257 Singaporean Chinese men and women aged 45-74 years living in Singapore. We selected cases and controls from participants that provided blood samples and were free of coronary heart disease and stroke at the time of blood collection (N=24,454). Cases (N=760) had acute myocardial infarction (AMI) or died of coronary heart disease. AMI was identified through the Singapore Myocardial Infarction Registry or through the nationwide hospital discharge database followed by confirmation of AMI by cardiologists' review of medical records using the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis criteria (available at: <http://www.mesa-nhlbi.org/manuals.aspx>). Coronary heart disease deaths were identified through the Singapore Registry of Births and Deaths (ICD9 410-414 as first stated cause of death). Matched controls (N=1,491) were selected using a risk-set sampling strategy. Controls were participants who were alive and free of coronary heart disease at the time of the diagnosis or death of the index cases and were matched for age, sex, dialect group, year of recruitment and date of blood collection. In-person interviews and phlebotomy were conducted

before the onset of disease and non-fasting venous blood was stored at -80°C for extraction of DNA and blood biochemistry.

Singapore: SCES (Singapore Chinese Eye Study): SCES is a population-based, cross-sectional study of Chinese adults aged 40–80+ years residing in the South-Western part of Singapore, which is part of the Singapore Epidemiology of Eye Disease (SEED). Age stratified random sampling was used to select 6,350 eligible participants, of which 3,300 participated in the study (73% response rate). Detailed methodology has been published. Two readings of blood pressure were taken from participants after 5 minutes of rest, seated, using an automated blood pressure monitor (Dinamap Pro100V2; Criticon, Norderstedt, Germany) by trained observers. One of two cuff sizes (regular, large) was chosen on the basis of the circumference of the participant's arm. A third reading was performed if the difference between two readings of either the systolic blood pressure was greater than 10mmHg or the diastolic blood pressure was greater than 5mmHg. The mean values of the closest two readings were calculated. **SiMES (Singapore Malay Eye Study):** SiMES is a population-based cross-sectional epidemiological study of 3,280 individuals from one of the three major ethnic groups residing in Singapore. SiMES is part of the Singapore Epidemiology of Eye Disease (SEED) study. In summary, 5,600 individuals have been selected by an age-stratified sampling strategy. Among these 4,168 individuals are eligible for this study. 3,280 individuals finally participated in the study. All subjects were Malay and aged 40-79 years. Two readings of blood pressure were taken from participants after 5 minutes of rest, seated, using an automated blood pressure monitor (Dinamap Pro100V2; Criticon, Norderstedt, Germany) by trained observers. One of two cuff sizes (regular, large) was chosen on the basis of the circumference of the participant's arm. A third reading was performed if the difference between two readings of either the systolic blood pressure was greater than 10mmHg or the diastolic blood pressure was greater than 5mmHg. The mean values of the closest two readings were calculated. **SINDI (Singapore Indian Eye Study):** is a population-based, cross-sectional study of Asian Indian adults aged 40–80+ years residing in the South-Western part of Singapore, which is part of the Singapore Epidemiology of Eye Disease (SEED). Age stratified random sampling was used to select 6,350 eligible participants, of which 3,400 participated in the study (75.6% response rate). Detailed methodology has been published. Two readings of blood pressure were taken from participants after 5 minutes of rest, seated, using an automated blood pressure monitor (Dinamap Pro100V2; Criticon, Norderstedt, Germany) by trained observers. One of two cuff sizes (regular, large) was chosen on the basis of the circumference of the participant's arm. A third reading was performed if the difference between two readings of either the systolic blood pressure was greater than 10mmHg or the diastolic blood pressure was greater than 5mmHg. The mean values of the closest two readings were calculated. **SP2 (Singapore 2):** The SP2 is a population-based study of diabetes and cardiovascular disease in Singapore. It first surveyed subjects (Chinese, Malay and Indian) from four cross-sectional studies that were conducted in Singapore between 1982 and 1998. Subjects were between the ages of 24-95 years and represented a random sample of the Singapore population. Subjects were re-visited between 2003 and 2007. Among the 10,747 individuals who were eligible, 5,157 subjects completed a questionnaire and the subsequent clinical examinations. Data from this re-visit were utilized for this study. Two readings of blood pressure were taken from participants after 5 min of rest, seated, using an automated blood pressure monitor (Dinamap Pro100V2; Criticon, Norderstedt, Germany) by trained observers. One of two cuff sizes (regular, large) was chosen on the basis of the circumference of the participant's arm. A third reading was performed if the difference between two readings of either the systolic blood pressure was greater than 10mmHg or the diastolic blood pressure was greater than 5mmHg. The mean values of the closest two readings were calculated.

WGHS (Women's Genome Health Study): WGHS is a prospective cohort of female North American health care professionals representing participants in the Women's Health Study (WHS) trial who provided a blood sample at baseline and consent for blood-based analyses. Participants in the WHS were 45 years or older at enrollment and free of cardiovascular disease, cancer or other major chronic illness. The current data are derived from 23,294 WGHS participants for whom whole genome

genotype information was available at the time of analysis and for whom self-reported European ancestry could be confirmed by multidimensional scaling analysis of 1,443 ancestry informative markers in PLINK v. 1.06. At baseline, BP and lifestyle habits related to smoking, consumption of alcohol, and physical activity as well as other general clinical information were ascertained by a self-reported questionnaire, an approach which has been validated in the WGHS demographic, namely female health care professionals. Questionnaires recorded systolic BP in 9 categories (<110, 110-119, 120-129, 130-139, 140-149, 150-159, 160-169, 170-179, \geq 180 mmHg), and diastolic BP in 7 categories (<65, 65-74, 75-84, 85-89, 90-94, 95-104, \geq 105 mmHg). All analyses treated these BP responses as quantitative variables representing each category with its midpoint value. Hypertension was defined as one or more of reported physician diagnosis, systolic BP \geq 140 mmHg, or diastolic BP \geq 90 mmHg.

WHI (Women's Health Initiative): WHI is a long-term national health study that focuses on strategies for preventing common diseases such as heart disease, cancer and fracture in postmenopausal women. A total of 161,838 women aged 50–79 years old were recruited from 40 clinical centers in the US between 1993 and 1998. WHI consists of an observational study, two clinical trials of postmenopausal hormone therapy (HT, estrogen alone or estrogen plus progestin), a calcium and vitamin D supplement trial, and a dietary modification trial¹. Study recruitment and exclusion criteria have been described previously¹. Recruitment was done through mass mailing to age-eligible women obtained from voter registration, driver's license and Health Care Financing Administration or other insurance list, with emphasis on recruitment of minorities and older women². Exclusions included participation in other randomized trials, predicted survival < 3 years, alcoholism, drug dependency, mental illness and dementia. For the CT, women were ineligible if they had a systolic BP > 200 mm Hg or diastolic BP > 105 mm Hg, a history of hypertriglyceridemia or breast cancer. Study protocols and consent forms were approved by the IRB at all participating institutions. Socio-demographic characteristics, lifestyle, medical history and self-reported medications were collected using standardized questionnaires at the screening visit. Physical measures of height, weight and blood pressure were measured at a baseline clinical visit². BP was measured by certified staff using standardized procedures and instruments³. Two BP measures were recorded after 5 minutes rest using a mercury sphygmomanometer. Appropriate cuff bladder size was determined at each visit based on arm circumference. Diastolic BP was taken from the phase V Korotkoff measures. The average of the two measurements, obtained 30 seconds apart, was used in analyses. The genome wide association study (GWAS) non-overlapping samples are composed of a case-control study (WHI Genomics and Randomized Trials Network – GARNET, which included all coronary heart disease, stroke, venous thromboembolic events and selected diabetes cases that happened during the active intervention phase in the WHI HT clinical trials and aged matched controls), women selected to be "representative" of the HT trial (mostly younger white HT subjects that were also enrolled in the WHI memory study - WHIMS) and the WHI SNP Health Association Resource (WHI SHARe), a randomly selected sample of 8,515 African American and 3,642 Hispanic women from WHI. GWAS was performed using Affymetrix 6.0 (WHI-SHARe), HumanOmniExpressExome-8v1_B (WHIMS), Illumina HumanOmni1-Quad v1-0 B (GARNET). Extensive quality control (QC) of the GWAS data included alignment ("flipping") to the same reference panel, imputation to the 1000G data (using the recent reference panel - v3.20101123), identification of genetically related individuals, and computations of principal components (PCs) using methods developed by Price et al. (using EIGENSOFT software 53), and finally the comparison with self-reported ethnicity. After QC and exclusions from analysis protocol, the number of women included in analysis is 4,423 whites for GARNET, 5,202 white for WHIMS, 7,919 for SHARe African American and 3,377 for SHARe Hispanics.

1. Hays J, Hunt JR, Hubbell FA, Anderson GL, Limacher M, Allen C, Rossouw JE. The women's health initiative recruitment methods and results. *Ann Epidemiol.* 2003;13:S18-77
2. Design of the women's health initiative clinical trial and observational study. The women's health initiative study group. *Control Clin Trials.* 1998;19:61-109

3. Hsia J, Margolis KL, Eaton CB, Wenger NK, Allison M, Wu L, LaCroix AZ, Black HR. Prehypertension and cardiovascular disease risk in the women's health initiative. *Circulation*. 2007;115:855-860

Stage 2 (Focused Discovery/replication) Study Descriptions

Brief descriptions are provided below for each of the replication studies/cohorts:

AA-DHS (African American Diabetes Heart Study): AA-DHS objectives are to improve understanding of ethnic differences in CAC and CP in populations of African and European ancestry. The AA-DHS consists of self-reported African Americans with T2D recruited from two Wake Forest School of Medicine (WFSM) studies: the family-based Diabetes Heart Study (DHS) and unrelated individuals in the AA-DHS. DHS is a cross-sectional study of European American and African American families with siblings concordant for T2D. AA-DHS started after DHS and enrolled unrelated African Americans. The AA-DHS GWAS utilized the Illumina 5M chip with imputation to 1,000 Genomes.

Airwave (The Airwave Health Monitoring Study): The Airwave Health Monitoring Study (22) was established to evaluate possible health risks associated with use of TETRA, a digital communication system used by police forces and other emergency services in Great Britain since 2001. The study has been broadened to investigate more generally the health of the work force. From 2004, participants from each force who agreed to participate were enrolled either with an enrolment questionnaire or a comprehensive health screening performed locally. This includes questionnaire, 7-day food diaries, anthropometry, measurements of cardiovascular and cognitive function, blood chemistry, coagulation and hematology. Systolic and diastolic blood pressures were measured as three consecutive readings using a digital blood pressure monitor (Omron HEM 705-CP digital BP monitor). By March 2015, the study had recruited 53,606 participants, of whom 45,433 had attended the health screening, and 14,002 have genotype data (1000G imputed).

Ref: Elliott, P. et al. The Airwave Health Monitoring Study of police officers and staff in Great Britain: rationale, design and methods. *Environ Res* 134, 280-5 (2014).

ASCOT (Anglo-Scandinavian Cardiac Outcomes Trial): ASCOT is a randomised control clinical trial investigating the cardiac outcomes of blood pressure lowering and lipid lowering treatments. Of 19,342 hypertensive patients (40–79 years of age with at least three other cardiovascular risk factors) who were randomized to one of two antihypertensive regimens in ASCOT (atenolol, Beta-Blocker vs amlodipine, Calcium-Channel-Blocker), 10,305 patients with non-fasting total cholesterol concentrations of 6.5 mmol/l or less (measured at the non-fasting screening visit) had been randomly assigned additional atorvastatin 10 mg or placebo. Only a proportion of United Kingdom, Irish, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark consented to contribute DNA and participate in genetic studies. PMID 11685901

BBJ (Biobank Japan Project): The Biobank Japan (BBJ) Project was established in 2003 with the aim of the implementation of personalized medicine as a leading project of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). In collaboration with twelve cooperating institutes, the BBJ has recruited a total of 200,000 people, suffering from at least one of the 47 target common diseases, in the first phase (5-year period). BBJ has collected biospecimens including DNA and serum as well as various clinical and lifestyle information through interview or medical records by using standardized questionnaire. All participants gave written informed consent to this project and this study was approved by ethical committees of RIKEN and participating institutes.

BES (Beijing Eye Study): Beijing Eye Study is a population-based study that assess the associated and risk factors of ocular and general diseases in China population. The study was initialized in 2001, collected data from 4439 subjects aged ≥ 40 years from seven communities in Beijing area, where three of the communities were located in rural districts and four were located in urban districts. BES was followed-up in 2006, with 3251 of the original subjects participated, and in 2011, with 2695 subjects returned for the follow-up examination. At the examinations in 2006 and 2011, trained research staffs asked the subjects questions from a standard questionnaire providing information on family status, level

of education, income, quality of life, psychic depression, physical activity, and known major systemic diseases. Fasting blood samples were taken for measurement of blood lipids, glucose, and glycosylated hemoglobin. Individuals were classified as self-reported non-smokers or self-reported current smokers. Alcohol consumption habits based on number of drinks per day were collected. All variables used in analyses were taken from examinations in 2006 or in 2011. The BES subjects were genotyped on two arrays, Illumina Human610-Quad (N = 832) and Illumina OmniExpress (N = 814).

BRIGHT (British Genetics of Hypertension): Participants of the BRIGHT Study are recruited from the Medical Research Council General Practice Framework and other primary care practices in the UK. Each case had a history of hypertension diagnosed prior to 60 years of age with confirmed blood pressure recordings corresponding to seated levels >150/100mmHg (1 reading) or mean of 3 readings >145/95 mmHg. BRIGHT is focused on recruitment of hypertensive individuals with BMI<30. Sample selection for GWAS was based on DNA availability and quantity. PMID 12826435

CAGE-Amagasaki (Cardio-metabolic Genome Epidemiology Network, Amagasaki Study): The Amagasaki Study (CAGE-Amagasaki) is an ongoing population-based cohort study of 5,743 individuals (3,435 males and 2,310 females), aged >18 years and recruited for a baseline examination between September 2002 to August 2003. Participants were interviewed by trained personnel to obtain information on medical and lifestyle variables, and consented to provide DNA for genotyping of molecular variants to investigate genetic susceptibility for so-called lifestyle-related diseases such as hypertension and cardiovascular disorder.

CFS (Cleveland Family Study): The Cleveland Family Study (CFS) is a family-based, longitudinal study designed to characterize the genetic and non-genetic risk factors for sleep apnea. In total, 2534 individuals (46% African American) from 352 families were studied on up to 4 occasions over a period of 16 years (1990-2006). The initial aim of the study was to quantify the familial aggregation of sleep apnea. 632 African Americans were genotyped on the Affymetrix array 6.0 platform through the CARE Consortium with suitable genotyping quality control. A further 122 African-Americans had genotyping based on the Illumina OmniExpress + Exome platform. Genomes were imputed separately for each chip based on a 1000 Genomes Project Phase 3 Version 5 cosmopolitan template using SHAPEIT and IMPUTE2. Participants had three supine BP measurements each performed after lying quietly for 10 minutes, before bed (10:00 P.M.) and upon awakening (7:00 A.M.), and another three sitting at 11 am, following standardized guidelines using a calibrated sphygmomanometer. Cuff size was determined by the circumference of the upper arm and the appropriate bladder size from a standard chart. BP phenotypes were determined from the average of the nine measurements.

Colaus (Cohorte Lausannoise): The cohort is a random population sample of the city of Lausanne aged 35-75 years. Recruitment began in June 2003 and ended in May 2006, and the first follow-up was conducted between April 2009 and September 2012. The CoLaus study was approved by the Institutional Ethics Committee of the University of Lausanne and informed consent was appropriately obtained by all participants. Both at baseline and follow-up, all participants attended the outpatient clinic of the University Hospital of Lausanne in the morning after an overnight fast. Data were collected by trained field interviewers in a single visit lasting about 60 min.

DESIR (Data from an Epidemiological Study on the Insulin Resistance): The DESIR cohort study aims to: describe and understand the relations between the abnormalities of the syndrome, their evolution, according to age and sex; search for risk factors of insulin resistance, in particular factors associated with the environment, lifestyle and genetic markers; quantify the links between the syndrome and both cardiovascular disease and diabetes; evaluate the frequency of the syndrome in terms of its consequences on public health.

DFTJ (Dongfeng-Tongji Cohort Study): The DFTJ-cohort study includes 27,009 retired employees from a state-owned automobile enterprise in China. This study was launched in 2008 and will be

followed up every 5 years. In 2013 we conducted the first follow-up. By using semi-structural questionnaire and health examination, those having cancer or severe diseases were excluded. Fasting blood samples and detailed epidemiology data were collected. The main goal of the cohort was to identify the environmental and genetic risk factors and the gene-environment interactions on chronic diseases, and to find novel biomarkers for chronic disease and mortality prediction. Finally, 1,461 included in the present study with GWAS data. All of the participants wrote informed consent and the ethical committees in the Tongji Medical College approved this research project. Detailed information has been described in elsewhere(1).

QC criteria and imputation methods:

We did the GWAS scan on the DFTJ-cohort with Affymetrix Genome-Wide Human SNP Array 6.0 chips. In total, we genotyped 906,703 SNPs among 1,461 subjects. After stringent QC filtering, SNPs with MAF < 0.01, Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium (HWE) < 0.0001, and SNP call rate < 95% were excluded. Individuals with call rates < 95% were also not included for further analysis. In total, we retained 1,452 subjects with 658,288 autosomal SNPs for statistical analyses, with an overall call rate of 99.68%. We used MACH 1.0 software to impute untyped SNPs using the LD information from the HapMap phase II database (CHB+JPT as a reference set (2007-08_rel22, released 2007-03-02). Imputed SNPs with high genotype information content ($R_{sq} > 0.3$ for MACH) were kept for the further association analysis.

Reference

1) Wang, F., Zhu, J., Yao, P., Li, X., He, M., Liu, Y., Yuan, J., Chen, W., Zhou, L., Min, X. et al. (2012) Cohort profile: The Dongfeng-Tongji cohort study of retired workers. International journal of epidemiology.

DHS (Diabetes Heart Study): The Diabetes Heart Study (DHS) is an ongoing family-based cohort study investigating the epidemiology and genetics of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in a population-based sample. The DHS recruited T2D-affected siblings without advanced renal insufficiency from 1998 through 2005 in western North Carolina. DHS has collected genetic data on 1,220 self-described European American (EA) individuals from 475 families. Genotyping was completed using an Affymetrix Genome-Wide Human SNP Array 5.0 with imputation of 1,000 Genomes project SNPs from this array using IMPUTE2 and the Phase I v2, cosmopolitan (integrated) reference panel, build 37.

DR's EXTRA (Dose Responses to Exercise Training): The Dose-Responses to Exercise Training (DR's EXTRA) Study is a 4-year RCT on the effects of regular physical exercise and healthy diet on endothelial function, atherosclerosis and cognition in a randomly selected population sample (n=3000) of Eastern Finnish men and women, identified from the national population register, aged 55-74 years. Of the eligible sample, 1410 individuals were randomized into one of the 6 groups: aerobic exercise, resistance exercise, diet, combined aerobic exercise and diet, combined resistance exercise and diet, or reference group following baseline assessments. During the four year intervention the drop-out rate was 15%.

EGCUT (Estonian Genome Center - University of Tartu (Estonian Biobank)): The Estonian Biobank is the population-based biobank of the Estonian Genome Center at the University of Tartu (www.biobank.ee; EGCUT). The entire project is conducted according to the Estonian Gene Research Act and all of the participants have signed the broad informed consent. The cohort size is up to 51535 individuals from 18 years of age and up, which closely reflects the age, sex and geographical distribution of the Estonian population. All of the subjects are recruited randomly by general practitioners and physicians in hospitals. A Computer Assisted Personal interview is filled within 1-2 hours at a doctor's office, which includes personal, genealogical, educational, occupational history and lifestyle data. Anthropometric measurements, blood pressure and resting heart rate are measured and venous blood taken during the visit. Medical history and current health status is recorded according to ICD-10 codes.

EPIC (European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition): The European Prospective Investigation of Cancer (EPIC) began as a large multi-centre cohort study primarily looking at the connection between diet, lifestyle factors and cancer, although the study was broadened from the outset to include other conditions. The EPIC-Norfolk participants are men and women who were aged between 40 and 79 when they joined the study and who lived in Norwich and the surrounding towns and rural areas. They have been contributing information about their diet, lifestyle and health through questionnaires and health checks over two decades. The Norwich Local Research Ethics Committee granted ethical approval for the study. All participants gave written informed consent.

FENLAND (The Fenland Study): The Fenland study is a population-based cohort study that uses objective measures of disease exposure to investigate the influence of diet, lifestyle and genetic factors on the development of diabetes and obesity. The volunteers are recruited from general practice lists in and around Cambridgeshire (Cambridge, Ely, and Wisbech) in the United Kingdom from birth cohorts from 1950–1975.

FUSION (Finland-United States Investigation of NIDDM Genetics): The Finland-United States Investigation of NIDDM Genetics (FUSION) study is a long-term effort to identify genetic variants that predispose to type 2 diabetes (T2D) or that impact the variability of T2D-related quantitative traits. The FUSION GWAS sample consists of 1,161 Finnish T2D cases and 1,174 Finnish normal glucose-tolerant (NGT) controls (Scott et al. Science 2007). Cases are defined by fasting plasma glucose ≥ 7.0 mmol/l or 2-h plasma glucose ≥ 11.1 mmol/l, by report of diabetes medication use, or based on medical record review. 789 FUSION cases each reported at least one T2D sibling; 372 Finrisk 2002 T2D cases came from a Finnish population-based risk factor survey. NGT controls are defined by fasting glucose < 6.1 mmol/l and 2-h glucose < 7.8 mmol/l. FUSION controls include 119 subjects from Vantaa, Finland who were NGT at ages 65 and 70 years, 304 NGT spouses from FUSION families, and 651 Finrisk 2002 subjects. The controls were approximately frequency matched to the cases by age, sex, and birth province. Smoking and alcohol data are only available in the FUSION subset of our GWAS samples.

Scott, L.J. et al. A genome-wide association study of type 2 diabetes in Finns detects multiple susceptibility variants. Science 316, 1341–1345, 2007.

GeneSTAR (Genetic Studies of Atherosclerosis Risk): GeneSTAR is a family-based prospective study of more than 4000 participants begun in 1983 to determine phenotypic and genetic causes of premature cardiovascular disease. Families were identified from 1983-2006 from probands with a premature coronary disease event prior to 60 years of age who were identified at the time of hospitalization in any of 10 hospitals in the Baltimore, Maryland area. Their apparently healthy 30-59 year old siblings without known coronary disease were recruited and screened between 1983 and 2006. From 2003-2006, adult offspring over 21 years of age of all participating siblings and probands, as well as the coparents of the offspring were recruited and screened. Genotyping was performed in 3,232 participants on the Illumina 1Mv1_c platform.

GLACIER (Gene x Lifestyle Interactions and Complex Traits Involved in Elevated Disease Risk): The Gene-Lifestyle interactions And Complex traits Involved in Elevated disease Risk (GLACIER) Study is nested within the Västerbotten Health Survey, which is part of the Northern Sweden Health and Disease Study, a population-based prospective cohort study from northern Sweden. Participants were genotyped with Illumina CardioMetaboChip array. This array contains ~200,000 variants, the majority being common variants. Systolic and diastolic blood pressures were measured once following a period of five minutes rest with the participant in the supine position using a mercury-gauge sphygmomanometer. Analysis of serum lipids (HDL-C, triglycerides and total cholesterol) were undertaken at the Department of Clinical Chemistry at Umeå University Hospital using routine methods. LDL-C was determined using the Friedewald formula. All participants completed a detailed, optically

readable, health and lifestyle questionnaire including questions about smoking status and alcohol intake (FFQ). Cohort description - PMID: 25396097

GRAPHIC (Genetic Regulation of Arterial Pressure of Humans in the Community): The GRAPHIC Study comprises 2024 individuals from 520 nuclear families recruited from the general population in Leicestershire, UK between 2003-2005 for the purpose of investigating the genetic determinants of blood pressure and related cardiovascular traits. A detailed medical history was obtained from study subjects by standardized questionnaires and clinical examination was performed by research nurses following standard procedures. Measurements obtained included height, weight, waist-hip ratio, clinic and ambulatory blood pressure and a 12-lead ECG.

HCHS/SOL (Hispanic Community Health Study/ Study of Latinos): The HCHS/SOL is a community-based cohort study of 16,415 self-identified Hispanic/Latino persons aged 18–74 years and selected from households in predefined census-block groups across four US field centers (in Chicago, Miami, the Bronx, and San Diego). The census-block groups were chosen to provide diversity among cohort participants with regard to socioeconomic status and national origin or background. The HCHS/SOL cohort includes participants who self-identified as having a Hispanic/Latino background; the largest groups are Central American (n = 1,730), Cuban (n = 2,348), Dominican (n = 1,460), Mexican (n = 6,471), Puerto Rican (n = 2,728), and South American (n = 1,068). The HCHS/SOL baseline clinical examination occurred between 2008 and 2011 and included comprehensive biological, behavioral, and sociodemographic assessments. Consenting HCHS/SOL subjects were genotyped at Illumina on the HCHS/SOL custom 15041502 B3 array. The custom array comprised the Illumina Omni 2.5M array (HumanOmni2.5-8v.1-1) ancestry-informative markers, known GWAS hits and drug absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion (ADME) markers, and additional custom content including ~150,000 SNPs selected from the CLM (Colombian in Medellin, Colombia), MXL (Mexican Ancestry in Los Angeles, California), and PUR (Puerto Rican in Puerto Rico) samples in the 1000Genomes phase 1 data to capture a greater amount of Amerindian genetic variation. QA/QC procedures yielded a total of 12,803 unique study participants for imputation and downstream association analyses.

HRS (Health & Retirement Study): The Health and Retirement Study (HRS) is a longitudinal survey of a representative sample of Americans over the age of 50. The current sample is over 26,000 persons in 17,000 households. Respondents are interviewed every two years about income and wealth, health and use of health services, work and retirement, and family connections. DNA was extracted from saliva collected during a face-to-face interview in the respondents' homes. These data represent respondents who provided DNA samples and signed consent forms in 2006, 2008, and 2010. Respondents were removed if they had missing genotype or phenotype data.

Juster, F. T., Suzman, R. (1995). An Overview of the Health and Retirement Study, *Journal of Human Resources* 30:Suppl: S7-S56.

Sonnega A, Faul JD, Ofstedal MB, Langa KM, Phillips JWR, Weir DR. Cohort Profile: the Health and Retirement Study (HRS). *Int. J. Epidemiol.* 2014; 43 (2): 576-585. PMID: 24671021

Crimmins, E.M., Guyer H., Langa K.M., Ofstedal M.B., Wallace R.B., and Weir D.R. (2008). Documentation of Physical Measures, Anthropometrics and Blood Pressure in the Health and Retirement Study. HRS Documentation Report DR-011. <http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/sitedocs/userg/dr-011.pdf>

HyperGEN-AXIOM (Hypertension Genetic Epidemiology Network): HyperGEN is a family-based study that investigates the genetic causes of hypertension and related conditions in EA and AA subjects. HyperGEN recruited hypertensive sibships, along with their normotensive adult offspring, and an age-matched random sample. HyperGEN has collected data on 2,471 Caucasian-American subjects and 2,300 African-American subjects, from five field centers in Alabama, Massachusetts, Minnesota,

North Carolina, and Utah. HyperGEN participates as a discovery study using GWAS available in a large subset of the samples. The remaining AA subjects without GWAS data were genotyped on the Affymetrix Axiom chip as part of a HyperGEN admixture mapping ancillary study. After excluding subjects already included in the original HyperGEN (or with family members included), this subset of approximately 450 AA subjects are included in the HyperGEN-AXIOM study which participates in replications.

INGI-CARL (Italian Network Genetic Isolates): The Carlantino cohort (INGI-CARL) is a population-based study including approximately 1000 samples from an isolated village of Southern Italy.

INGI-FVG (Italian Network Genetic Isolates): INGI-FVG is a population-based study including approximately 1700 samples from six isolated villages of Northern Italy.

InterAct (The EPIC-InterAct Case-Cohort Study): The large prospective InterAct type 2 diabetes case-cohort study is coordinated by the MRC Epidemiology Unit in Cambridge and nested within the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC). EPIC was initiated in the late 1980s and involves collaboration between 23 research institutions across Europe in 10 countries (Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom). The majority of EPIC cohorts were recruited from the general population, with some exceptions. French cohorts included women who were members of a health insurance scheme for school and university employees; Turin and Ragusa (Italy) and the Spanish centres included some blood donors. Participants from Utrecht (Netherlands) and Florence (Italy) were recruited via a breast cancer screening program. The majority of participants recruited by the EPIC Oxford (UK) centre consisted of vegetarian and “health conscious” volunteers from England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

IRAS (Insulin Resistance Atherosclerosis Study): The Insulin Resistance Atherosclerosis Study (IRAS) was an epidemiologic cohort study designed to examine the relationship between insulin resistance and carotid atherosclerosis across a range of glucose tolerance. Individuals of self-reported Mexican-American ethnicity were recruited in San Antonio, TX and San Luis Valley, CO. Recruitment was balanced across age and glucose tolerance status. Inclusion of IRAS data is limited to 194 normoglycemic individuals with genotype data from the Illumina OmniExpress and Omni 1S arrays and imputation to the 1000 Genome Integrated Reference Panel (phase I).

IRAS Family Study (Insulin Resistance Atherosclerosis Study): The IRASFS was a family study designed to examine the genetic and epidemiologic basis of glucose homeostasis traits and abdominal adiposity. Briefly, self-reported Mexican pedigrees were recruited in San Antonio, TX and San Luis Valley, CO. Probands with large families were recruited from the initial non-family-based IRAS, which was modestly enriched for impaired glucose tolerance and T2D. Inclusion of IRASFS data is limited to 1040 normoglycemic individuals in 88 pedigrees with genotype data from the Illumina OmniExpress and Omni 1S arrays and imputation to the 1000 Genome Integrated Reference Panel (phase I).

JUPITER (Justification for the Use of Statins in Primary Prevention: An Intervention Trial Evaluating Rosuvastatin): Genetic analysis was performed in a sub-population from JUPITER (Justification for the Use of statins in Prevention: an Intervention Trial Evaluating Rosuvastatin), an international, randomized, placebo-controlled trial of rosuvastatin (20mg/day) in the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease conducted among apparently healthy men and women with LDL-C < 130 mg/dL and hsCRP \geq 2 mg/L (1, 2). Individuals with diabetes or triglyceride concentration >500mg/dL were excluded. The present analysis includes only individuals who provided consent for genetic analysis, had successfully collected genotype information, and who had either verified European or verified South African black ancestry.

1) Ridker PM, Danielson E, Fonseca FA, Genest J, Gotto AM Jr, Kastelein JJ, Koenig W, Libby P, Lorenzatti AJ, MacFadyen JG, Nordestgaard BG, Shepherd J, Willerson JT, Glynn RJ; JUPITER Study Group. Rosuvastatin to prevent vascular events in men and women with elevated C-reactive protein. *N Engl J Med* 2008 Nov 20; 359(21):2195-207

2) Chasman DI, Giulianini F, MacFadyen J, Barratt BJ, Nyberg F, Ridker PM. Genetic determinants of statin-induced low-density lipoprotein cholesterol reduction: the Justification for the Use of Statins in Prevention: an Intervention Trial Evaluating Rosuvastatin (JUPITER) trial. *Circ Cardiovasc Genet*. 2012 Apr 1;5(2):257-64. doi: 10.1161/CIRCGENETICS.111.961144. Epub 2012 Feb 13. Erratum in: *Circ Cardiovasc Genet*. 2012 Jun;5(3):e27. PubMed PMID: 22331829.

KORA (Cooperative Health Research in the Augsburg Region): The KORA study is a series of independent population-based epidemiological surveys of participants living in the region of Augsburg, Southern Germany. All survey participants are residents of German nationality identified through the registration office and were examined in 1994/95 (KORA S3) and 1999/2001 (KORA S4). In the KORA S3 and S4 studies 4,856 and 4,261 subjects have been examined implying response rates of 75% and 67%, respectively. 3,006 subjects participated in a 10-year follow-up examination of S3 in 2004/05 (KORA F3), and 3080 of S4 in 2006/2008 (KORA F4). The age range of the participants was 25 to 74 years at recruitment. Informed consent has been given by all participants. The study has been approved by the local ethics committee. Individuals for genotyping in KORA F3 and KORA F4 were randomly selected and these genotypes are taken for the analysis of the phenotypes in KORA S3 and KORA S4.

LBC1921 (Lothian Birth Cohort 1921): LBC1921 consists of 550 (234 male) relatively healthy individuals, assessed on cognitive and medical traits at a mean age of 79.1 years (SD = 0.6). They were born in 1921, most took part in the Scottish Mental Survey of 1932, and almost all lived independently in the Lothian region (Edinburgh City and surrounding area) of Scotland.¹

LBC1936 (Lothian Birth Cohort 1936): LBC1936 consists of 1091 (548 male) relatively healthy individuals who underwent cognitive and medical testing at a mean age of 69.6 years (SD = 0.8). They were born in 1936, most took part in the Scottish Mental Survey of 1947, and almost all lived independently in the Lothian region of Scotland.¹

(1) Deary IJ, Gow AJ, Pattie A, Starr JM. Cohort profile: the Lothian Birth Cohorts of 1921 and 1936. *Int J Epidemiol* 2012;41:1576-1584.

Lifelines (Netherlands Biobank): Lifelines (<https://lifelines.nl/>) is a multi-disciplinary prospective population-based cohort study using a unique three-generation design to examine the health and health-related behaviors of 165,000 persons living in the North East region of The Netherlands. It employs a broad range of investigative procedures in assessing the biomedical, socio-demographic, behavioral, physical and psychological factors which contribute to the health and disease of the general population, with a special focus on multimorbidity. In addition, the Lifelines project comprises a number of cross-sectional sub-studies which investigate specific age-related conditions. These include investigations into metabolic and hormonal diseases, including obesity, cardiovascular and renal diseases, pulmonary diseases and allergy, cognitive function and depression, and musculoskeletal conditions. All survey participants are between 18 and 90 years old at the time of enrollment. Recruitment has been going on since the end of 2006, and over 130,000 participants had been included by April 2013. At the baseline examination, the participants in the study were asked to fill in a questionnaire (on paper or online) before the first visit. During the first and second visit, the first or second part of the questionnaire, respectively, are checked for completeness, a number of investigations are conducted, and blood and urine samples are taken. Lifelines is a facility that is open for all researchers. Information on application and data access procedure is summarized on www.lifelines.nl.

Scholtens S, Smidt N, Swertz MA, Bakker SJ, Dotinga A, Vonk JM, et al. Cohort Profile: LifeLines, a three-generation cohort study and biobank. *Int J Epidemiol.* 2014 Dec 14.

LLFS (The Long Life Family Study): LLFS is a family-based cohort study, including four clinical centers: Boston University Medical Center in Boston, MA, USA, Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, NY, USA, the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh PA, USA, and University of Southern Denmark, Denmark. The study characteristics, recruitment, eligibility and enrollment have been previously described (Pedersen et al., 2006, PMID: 17150149; Sebastiani et al., 2009, PMID: 19910380; Newman et al., 2011, PMID: 21258136). In brief, the LLFS was designed to determine genetic, behavioral, and environmental factors related to families of exceptionally healthy, elderly individuals. Phase 1 was conducted between 2006 and 2009 recruiting 4,953 individuals from 539 families. The probands were at least 79 years old in the USA centers, and 90 years old or above in Denmark. The families were selected to participate in the study based on The Family Longevity Selection Score (FLoSS) (Sebastiani et al., 2009, PMID: 19910380), a score generated according to birth-year cohort survival probabilities of the proband and siblings; probands and their families with FLoSS score of 7 or higher, at least one living sibling, and at least one living offspring (minimum family size of 3), who were able to give informed consent and willing to participate were recruited. The individuals were genotyped using ~2.3 million SNPs from the Illumina Omni chip, and then imputed on phased 1000 Genomes with Cosmopolitan data as a reference using MACH and MINIMAC. After excluding participants with 80 years and older, ~3,200 individuals have been included in the analyses for replication.

LOLIPOP (London Life Sciences Prospective Population Study): LOLIPOP is a population based prospective study of about 28K Indian Asian and European men and women, recruited from the lists of 58 General Practitioners in West London, United Kingdom between 2003 and 2008 [1]. Indian Asians had all four grandparents born on the Indian subcontinent. Europeans were of self-reported white ancestry. At enrolment all participants completed an interviewer-administered questionnaire for demographic data, medical history, and smoking and alcohol drinking habits. Anthropometric data were collected and blood pressure measured using an Omron 705CP with the mean of three measurements recorded. Blood samples were collected for the measurement of lipid profile after an overnight fasting of at least 8 hours. Aliquots of whole blood were stored at -80C for extraction of genomic DNA. The LOLIPOP study is approved by the local Research Ethics Committees and all participants provided written informed consent.

Loyola GxE (Kingston Gene-by-environment; subset of International Collaborative Study of Hypertension in Blacks (ICSHIB)): The Kingston GxE cohort was obtained from a survey conducted in Kingston, Jamaica as part of a larger project to examine gene by environment interactions in the determination of blood pressure among adults 25-74 years [PMID: 9103091]. The principal criterion for eligibility was a body mass index in either the top or bottom third of BMI for the Jamaican population. Participants were identified principally from the records of the Heart Foundation of Jamaica, a non-governmental organization based in Kingston, which provides low-cost screening services (height and weight, blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol) to the general public. Other participants were identified from among participants in family studies of blood pressure at the Tropical Metabolism Research Unit (TMRU) and from among staff members at the University of the West Indies, Mona.

Loyola SPT (Spanish Town; subset of International Collaborative Study of Hypertension in Blacks (ICSHIB)): Participants were recruited from Spanish Town, a stable, residential urban area neighboring the capital city of Kingston, Jamaica as part of the ICSHIB [PMID: 9103091]. A stratified random sampling scheme was used to recruit adult males and females aged 25–74 years from the general population. Spanish Town was chosen because its demographic make-up was broadly representative of Jamaica as a whole.

METSIM (Metabolic Syndrome In Men): The METSIM Study includes 10,197 men, aged from 45 to 73 years at recruitment, randomly selected from the population register of the Kuopio town, Eastern Finland, and examined in 2005-2010 (Stancakova A, et al. Diabetes 2009). The aim of the study is to investigate genetic and non-genetic factors associated with type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease and its risk factors.

Stancakova A, Javorsky M, Kuulasmaa T, Haffner SM, Kuusisto J, Laakso M: Changes in insulin sensitivity and insulin release in relation to glycemia and glucose tolerance in 6416 Finnish men. Diabetes 58:1212-1221, 2009.

NESDA (Netherlands Study of Depression and Anxiety): NESDA is a multi-center study designed to examine the long-term course and consequences of depressive and anxiety disorders (<http://www.nesda.nl>). NESDA included both individuals with depressive and/or anxiety disorders and controls without psychiatric conditions. Inclusion criteria were age 18-65 years and self-reported western European ancestry while exclusion criteria were not being fluent in Dutch and having a primary diagnosis of another psychiatric condition (psychotic disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, bipolar disorder, or severe substance use disorder).

OBA (French obese cases): Study of the genetic of obesity in adults.

PROCARDIS (Precocious Coronary Artery Disease): The PROCARDIS (European collaborative study of the genetics of precocious coronary artery disease) study is a multi-centre case-control study in which CAD cases and controls were recruited from the United Kingdom, Italy, Sweden and Germany. Cases were defined as symptomatic CAD before age 66 years and 80% of cases also had a sibling in whom CAD had been diagnosed before age 66 years. CAD was defined as clinically documented evidence of myocardial infarction (MI) (80%), coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) (10%), acute coronary syndrome (ACS) (6%), coronary angioplasty (CA) (1%) or stable angina (hospitalization for angina or documented obstructive coronary disease) (3%). The cases included 2,136 cases who were half or full siblings. PROCARDIS controls had no personal or sibling history of CAD before age 66 years.

RHS (Ragama Health Study): The Ragama Health Study (RHS) is a population-based study of South Asian men and women aged 35-64yrs living in the Ragama Medical Officer of Health (MOH) area, near Colombo, Sri Lanka.* Consenting adults attended a clinic after a 12-h fast with available health records, and were interviewed by trained personnel to obtain information on medical, sociodemographic, and lifestyle variables. A 10-mL sample of venous blood was obtained from each subject. The concurrent study was performed in two tea plantation estates in the Lindula MOH area, near Nuwara Eliya (180 km from Colombo), to investigate the gene-environment interaction in a community with differing lifestyles (e.g., physical activity and diet). BP was measured using the Omron 750CP (Omron Co., Japan) in the seated position. The average of two readings was used for the analysis. The RHS is a collaborative effort between the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya and the National Center for Global Health and Medicine, Japan.

*Reference: Dassanayake, A.S. et al. Prevalence and risk factors for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease among adults in an urban Sri Lankan population. J Gastroenterol Hepatol 24, 1284-8 (2009).

SHEEP (Stockholm Heart Epidemiology Project): The SHEEP is a population based case-control study of risk factors for first episode of acute myocardial infarction. The study base comprised all Swedish citizens resident in the Stockholm county 1992-1994 who were 45-70 years of age and were free of previous clinically diagnosed myocardial infarction.

Cases were identified using three different sources: 1) coronary units and internal medicine wards for acute care in all Stockholm hospitals; 2) the National Patient Register; and 3) death certificates. For the present study, only cases who survived at least 28 days were considered (n=1213).

First time incident myocardial infarction cases (n=1213) were identified during a 2-year period (1992-1993) for men and during a 3-year period (1992-1994) for women. Controls (n=1561) were randomly recruited from the study population continuously over time within 2 days of the case occurrence and matched to cases on age (5-years interval), sex and hospital catchment area using computerized registers of the population of Stockholm. Five control candidates were sampled simultaneously to be able to replace potential non-respondent controls. Occasionally, because of late response of the initial control, both the first and alternative controls were considered resulting in the inclusion of more controls than cases. Postal questionnaires covering a wide range of exposure areas including occupational exposures, life style factors, social factors and health related factors were distributed to the participants. Clinical investigations were performed at least three months after myocardial infarction of cases and their matched controls. The investigations included blood samplings under fasting conditions with collection of whole blood for DNA extraction, serum and plasma. A biobank was established containing DNA, serum and plasma.

Exposure information based on both the questionnaire and biological data from the health examination was available for 78% of the male and 67% of the female non-fatal cases; the corresponding figures for their controls were 68% and 64%.

SHIP (Study of Health in Pomerania): The Study of Health In Pomerania (SHIP) is a prospective longitudinal population-based cohort study in Mecklenburg-West Pomerania assessing the prevalence and incidence of common diseases and their risk factors (PMID: 20167617). SHIP encompasses the two independent cohorts SHIP and SHIP-TREND. Participants aged 20 to 79 with German citizenship and principal residency in the study area were recruited from a random sample of residents living in the three local cities, 12 towns as well as 17 randomly selected smaller towns. Individuals were randomly selected stratified by age and sex in proportion to population size of the city, town or small towns, respectively. A total of 4,308 participants were recruited between 1997 and 2001 in the SHIP cohort. Between 2008 and 2012 a total of 4,420 participants were recruited in the SHIP-TREND cohort. Individuals were invited to the SHIP study centre for a computer-assisted personal interviews and extensive physical examinations. The study protocol was approved by the medical ethics committee of the University of Greifswald. Oral and written informed consents was obtained from each of the study participants

Genome-wide SNP-typing was performed using the Affymetrix Genome-Wide Human SNP Array 6.0 or the Illumina Human Omni 2.5 array (SHIP-TREND samples). Array processing was carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's standard recommendations. Genotypes were determined using GenomeStudio Genotyping Module v1.0 (GenCall) for SHIP-TREND and the Birdseed2 clustering algorithm for SHIP. Imputation of genotypes in SHIP and SHIP-TREND was performed with the software IMPUTE v2.2.2 based on 1000 Genomes release March 2012.

SWHS/SMHS (Shanghai Women's Health Study/ Shanghai Men's Health Study): The Shanghai Women's Health Study (SWHS) is an ongoing population-based cohort study of approximately 75,000 women who were aged 40-70 years at study enrollment and resided in in urban Shanghai, China; 56,832 (75.8%) provided a blood samples. Recruitment for the SWHS was initiated in 1997 and completed in 2000. The self-administered questionnaire includes information on demographic characteristics, disease and surgery histories, personal habits (such as cigarette smoking, alcohol consumption, tea drinking, and ginseng use), menstrual history, residential history, occupational history, and family history of cancer.

The blood pressure were measured by trained interviewers (retired nurses) with a conventional mercury sphygmomanometer according to a standard protocol, after the participants sat quietly for 5 min at the study recruitment. Included in the current project were 2970 women who had GWAS data and blood pressure measurements at the baseline interview or 892 women who had GWAS data and lipids data.

The Shanghai Men's Health Study (SMHS) is an ongoing population-based cohort study of 61,480 Chinese men who were aged between 40 and 74 years, were free of cancer at enrollment, and lived in urban Shanghai, China; 45,766 (74.4%) provided a blood samples. Recruitment for the SMHS was initiated in 2002 and completed in 2006. The self-administered questionnaire includes information on demographic characteristics, disease and surgery histories, personal habits (such as cigarette smoking, alcohol consumption, tea drinking, and ginseng use), residential history, occupational history, and family history of cancer. The blood pressure were measured by trained interviewers (retired nurses) with a conventional mercury sphygmomanometer according to a standard protocol, after the participants sat quietly for 5 min at the study recruitment. Included in the current project were 892 men who had GWAS data and blood pressure measurements at the baseline interview or 298 men who had GWAS data and lipids data.

Genotyping and imputation: Genomic DNA was extracted from buffy coats by using a Qiagen DNA purification kit (Valencia, CA) or Puregene DNA purification kit (Minneapolis, MN) according to the manufacturers' instructions and then used for genotyping assays. The GWAS genotyping was performed using the Affymetrix Genome-Wide Human SNP Array 6.0 (Affy6.0) platform or Illumina 660, following manufacturers' protocols. After sample quality control, we exclude SNPs with 1) MAF <0.01; 2) call rate <95%; 2) bad genotyping cluster; and 3) concordance rate <95% among duplicated QC samples. Genotypes were imputed using the program MACH (<http://www.sph.umich.edu/csg/abecasis/MACH/download/>), which determines the probable distribution of missing genotypes conditional on a set of known haplotypes, while simultaneously estimating the fine-scale recombination map. Phased autosome SNP data from HapMap Phase II Asians (release 22) were used as the reference. To test for associations between the imputed SNP data with BMI, linear regression (additive model) was used, in which SNPs were represented by the expected allele count, an approach that takes into account the degree of uncertainty of genotype imputation (<http://www.sph.umich.edu/csg/abecasis/MACH/download/>).

The lipid profiles were measured at Vanderbilt Lipid Laboratory. Total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol, and triglycerides (TG) were measured using an ACE Clinical Chemistry System (Alfa Wassermann, Inc, West Caldwell, NJ). Low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol levels were calculated by using the Friedwald equation. The levels of LDL cholesterol were directly measured using an ACE Clinical Chemistry System for subjects with TG levels \geq 400 mg/dL. Fasting status was defined as an interval between the last meal and blood draw of 8 hours or longer.

TAICHI-G: The TaiChi consortium consists of 7 studies that collaborated initially in a large scale metabochip study, and became an ongoing consortium for studies of cardiometabolic disease in the Chinese population in Taiwan. The seven studies included the following: 1) HALST (Healthy Aging Longitudinal Study in Taiwan), a population based epidemiologic study of older adults living in all major geographic regions of Taiwan established by the Taiwan National Health Research Institutes (NHRI); 2) SAPPHIRe (Stanford-Asian Pacific Program in Hypertension and Insulin Resistance), a family based study established in 1995 with an initial goal of identifying major genetic loci underlying hypertension and insulin resistance in East Asian populations, with Taiwan subjects participating in the TaiChi consortium; 3) TCAGEN (Taiwan Coronary Artery Disease GENetic), a cohort study that that enrolled patients undergoing coronary angiography or percutaneous intervention at the National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH) in the setting of either stable angina pectoris or prior myocardial infarction; 4) TACT (TAiwan Coronary and Transcatheter intervention), a cohort study enrolled patients with angina pectoris and objective documentation of myocardial ischemia who underwent diagnostic coronary angiography and/or revascularization any time after October 2000 at the National Taiwan

University Hospital (NTUH) (similar to TCAGEN but recruitment was independent of TCAGEN); 5) Taiwan DRAGON (Taiwan Diabetes and RelAted Genetic ComplicatioN), a cohort study of Type 2 diabetes at Taichung Veterans General Hospital (Taichung VGH) in Taiwan, with participants including individuals with either newly diagnosed or established diabetes (subjects with hyperglycemia who did not meet diagnostic criteria for Type 2 DM were not included); 6) TCAD (Taichung CAD study), includes patients with a variety of cardiovascular diseases who received care at the Taichung Veterans General Hospital (Taichung VGH), i.e. specifically individuals who were hospitalized for diagnostic and interventional coronary angiography examinations and treatment; 7) TUDR (Taiwan US Diabetic Retinopathy) enrolled subjects with Type 2 diabetes who received care at Taichung Veteran General Hospital (Taichung VGH), and a small number of subjects from Taipei Tri-Service General Hospital (TSGH); TUDR subjects underwent a complete ophthalmic and fundus examination to carefully document the presence and extent of retinopathy. From these 7 studies, samples for over 1,800 subjects were selected based on completeness of standard metabolic phenotyping and knowledge of cardiac disease status, to undergo GWAS genotyping with an Illumina human-omni 'chip' specific for Asian population (Illumina, San Diego, CA; cat. No. 20004337), hence TAICHI-G.

THRV (Taiwan study of Hypertensives Rare Variants): THRV proposed to identify rare and low frequency genetic variants for blood pressure and hypertension through whole exome sequencing of a subset of highly enriched Taiwan Chinese hypertensive families and as many matched controls. The Taiwan Chinese families (approximately N=1,200 subjects) were previously recruited as part of the NHLBI-sponsored SAPPHIRe Network which is part of the Family Blood Pressure Program (FBPP). The SAPPHIRe families were recruited to have multiple hypertensive sibs and some of them also included one normotensive/hypotensive sib. The matched controls (N=1,200) were selected from the large population-based HALST Study and a Hospital-based population, both in Taipei, Taiwan.

TRAILS (Tracking Adolescents' Individual Lives Survey): TRAILS is a prospective cohort study of Dutch adolescents and young adults, with bi- or triennial measurements from age 11 onwards, which started in 2001. TRAILS consists of a general population and a clinical cohort (<https://www.trails.nl/en/home>). In the population cohort, six assessment waves have been completed to date, at mean ages 11.1 (SD = 0.6), 13.6 (SD = 0.5), 16.3 (SD = 0.7), 19.1 (SD = 0.6), 22.3 (SD = 0.6), and 25.8 (SD = 0.6). Data for the present study were collected in the population cohort only, during the third assessment wave. The study was approved by the Dutch Central Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects.

TUDR (Taiwan-US Diabetic Retinopathy): 2009 to present, is a cohort that enrolled subjects with Type 2 diabetes receiving care at Taichung Veteran General Hospital (Taichung VGH), and a small number of subjects from Taipei Tri-Service General Hospital. All TUDR subjects underwent a complete ophthalmic and fundus examination to carefully document the presence and extent of retinopathy.

TWINGENE (TwinGene of the Swedish Twin Registry): The aim of the TwinGene project has been to systematically transform the oldest cohorts of the Swedish Twin Registry (STR) into a molecular-genetic resource. Beginning in 2004, about 200 twins were contacted each month until the data collection was completed in 2008. A total of 21 500 twins were contacted where of 12 600 participated. Invitations to the study contained information of the study and its purpose. Along with the invitations consent forms and health questionnaire were sent to the subjects. When the signed consent forms were returned, the subjects were sent blood sampling equipment and asked to contact a local health facility for blood sampling. The study population was recruited among twins participating in the Screening Across the Lifespan Twin Study (SALT) which was a telephone interview study conducted in 1998-2002. Other inclusion criteria were that both twins in the pair had to be alive and living in Sweden. Subjects were excluded from the study if they previously declined participation in future studies or if they had been enrolled in other STR DNA sampling projects. The subjects were asked to make an appointment for a health check-up at their local health-care facility on the morning Monday to Thursday and not the day before a national holiday, this to ensure that the sample would reach the KI biobank the

following morning by overnight mail. The subjects were instructed to fast from 20.00 the previous night. By venipuncture a total of 50 ml of blood was drawn from each subject. Tubes with serum and blood for biobanking as well as for clinical chemistry tests were sent to KI by overnight mail. One 7ml EDTA tube of whole blood is stored in -80°C while a second 7ml EDTA tube of blood is used for DNA extraction using Puregene extraction kit (Gentra systems, Minneapolis, USA). After excluding subjects in which the DNA concentration in the stock-solution was below 20ng/μl as well as subset of 302 female monozygous twin pairs participating in a previous genome wide effort DNA from 9896 individual subjects was sent to SNP&SEQ Technology Platform Uppsala, Sweden for genome wide genotyping with Illumina OmniExpress bead chip (all available dizygous twins + one twin from each available MZ twin pair).

UKB (United Kingdom Biobank, www.ukbiobank.ac.uk): UK Biobank is a major national health resource with the aim of improving the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of serious and life-threatening illnesses. UK Biobank includes data from 502,682 individuals (94% of self-reported European ancestry), with extensive health and lifestyle questionnaire data, physical measures and genetic data. A total of 152,249 participants had genetic and phenotypic (blood pressure) data. Central genotyping quality control (QC) had been performed by UK Biobank [The UK Biobank. UK Biobank Genotyping QC documentation. (2015)]. Further QC was also performed locally.

UKHLS (Understanding Society / The UK Household Longitudinal Study): The United Kingdom Household Longitudinal Study, also known as Understanding Society (<https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk>) is a longitudinal panel survey of 40.000 UK households (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) representative of the UK population. Participants are surveyed annually since 2009 and contribute information relating to their socioeconomic circumstances, attitudes, and behaviours via a computer assisted interview. The study includes phenotypical data for a representative sample of participants for a wide range of social and economic indicators as well as a biological sample collection encompassing biometric, physiological, biochemical, and haematological measurements and self-reported medical history and medication use. The United Kingdom Household Longitudinal Study has been approved by the University of Essex Ethics Committee and informed consent was obtained from every participant.

YFS (The Cardiovascular Risk in Young Finns Study): The YFS is a population-based follow up-study started in 1980. The main aim of the YFS is to determine the contribution made by childhood lifestyle, biological and psychological measures to the risk of cardiovascular diseases in adulthood. In 1980, over 3,500 children and adolescents all around Finland participated in the baseline study. The follow-up studies have been conducted mainly with 3-year intervals. The latest 30-year follow-up study was conducted in 2010-11 (ages 33-49 years) with 2,063 participants. The study was approved by the local ethics committees (University Hospitals of Helsinki, Turku, Tampere, Kuopio and Oulu) and was conducted following the guidelines of the Declaration of Helsinki. All participants gave their written informed consent.

NOTE: Baependi, NEO, Pelotas, and WHI (EA) also participated in replications since they did not contribute to Smoking-BP discovery analysis.

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Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute. The Understanding Society DAC have an application system for genetics data and all use of the data should be approved by them. The application form is at:

<https://www.understandingsociety.ac.uk/about/health/data>.

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NOTE: Baependi, NEO, Pelotas, and WHI (EA) also participated in replications since they did not contribute to Smoking-BP discovery analysis.

Supplemental Figures

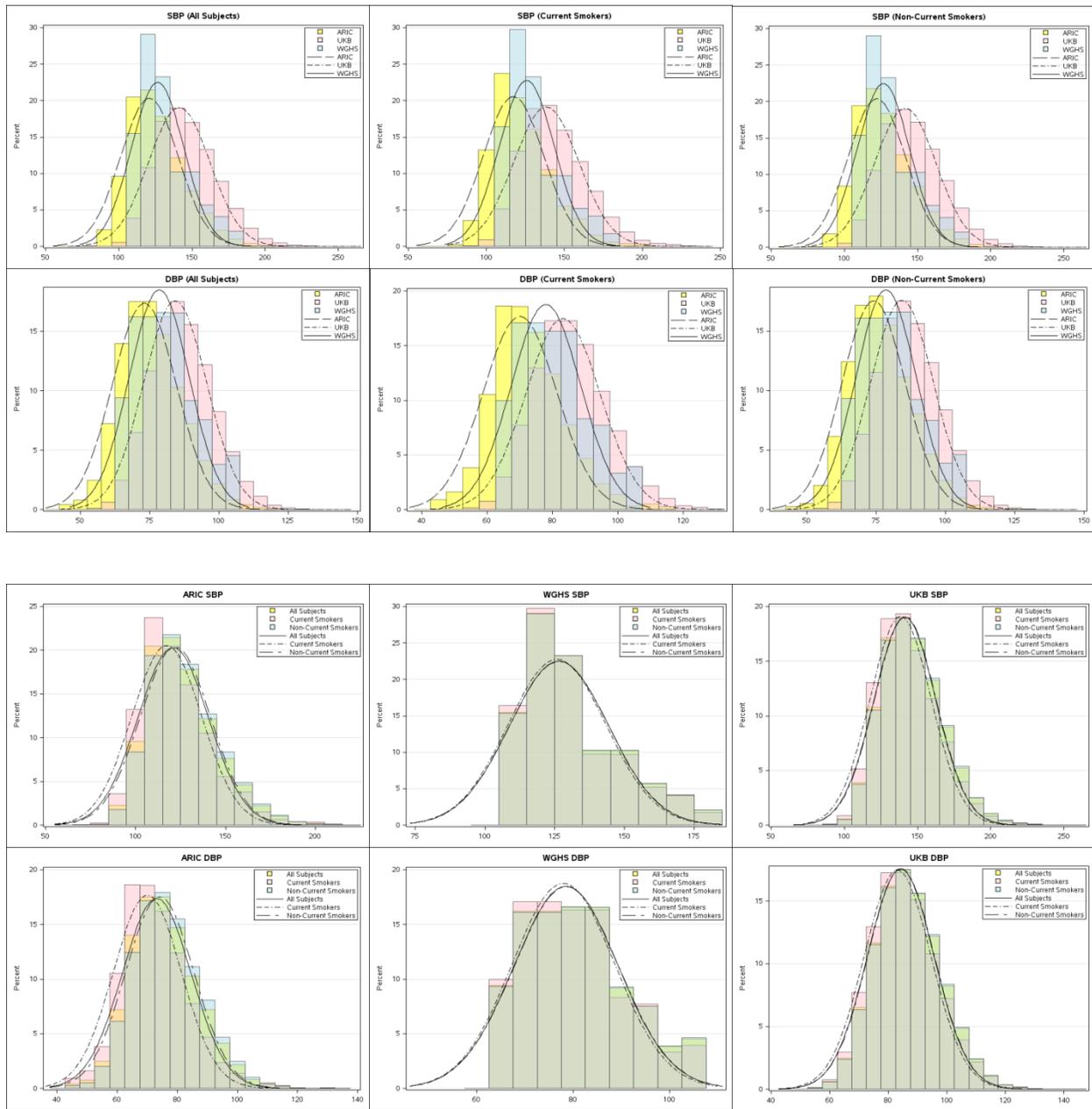


Figure S1: BP distributions across 3 large cohorts (ARIC, WGHS, and UK Biobank).

The top 6 panels (a panel for each smoking status) show some variations among the cohorts. This is because there are variations in covariates, which are adjusted within each cohort. The bottom 6 panels (a panel for each cohort) show almost identical distributions across smoking status within each cohort.

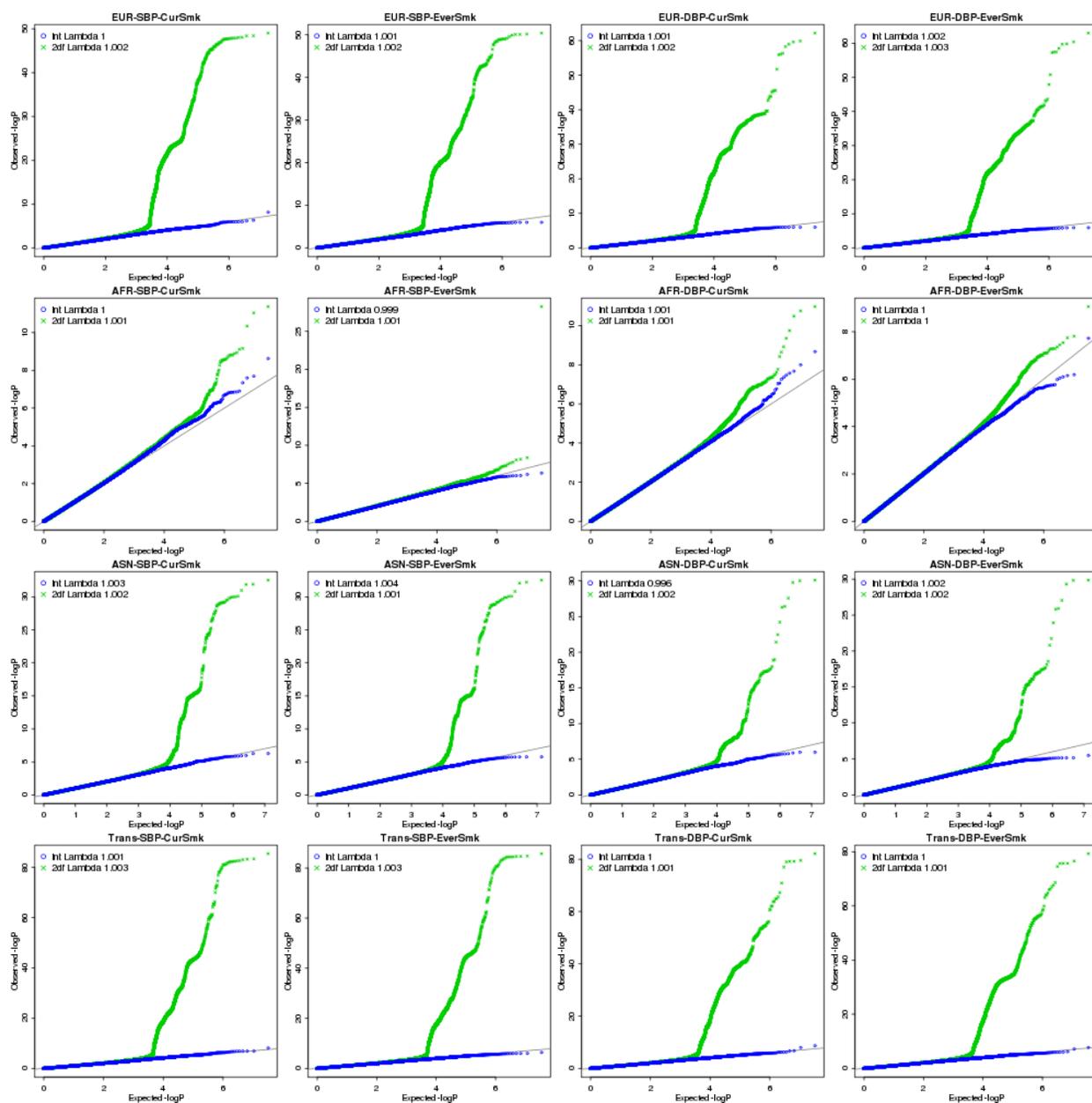


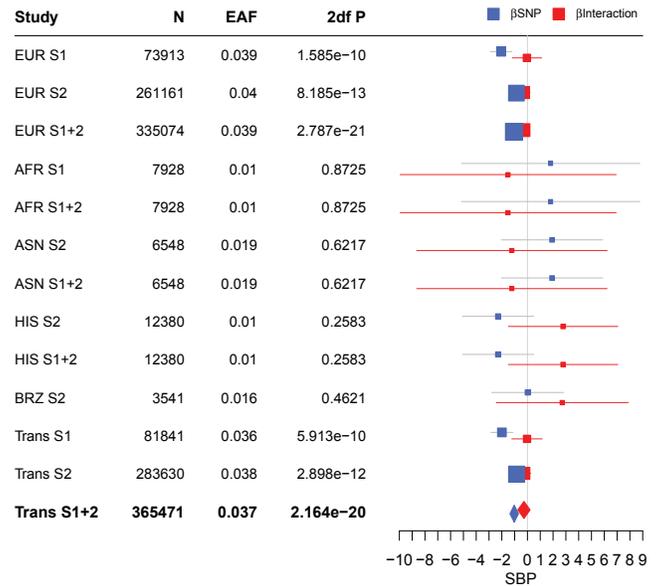
Figure S2: QQ plots of the Stage 1 discovery meta-analyses.

The combination of BP traits and smoking exposures were used: SBP-CurSmk (1st column), SBP-EverSmk (2nd column), DBP-CurSmk (3rd column), and DBP-EverSmk (4th column). Each plot displays p-values (blue circles for the 1 DF test of interaction effect; green crosses for the 2 DF joint test) and their genomic inflation factor.

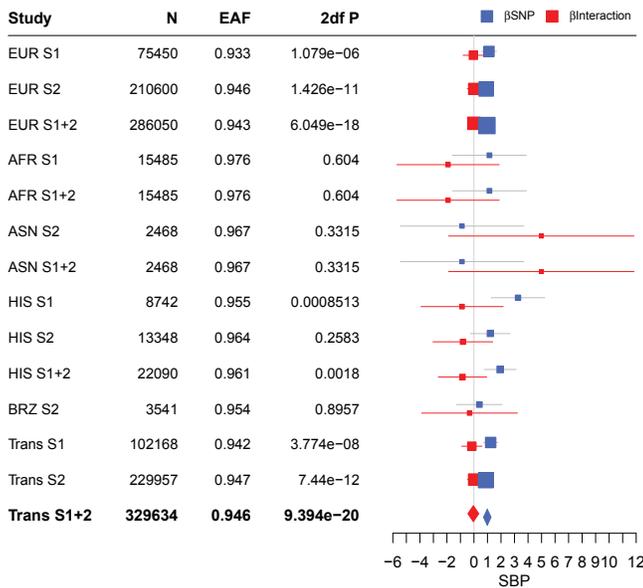
Figure S3: Forest plots that examine consistencies between Stage 1 and 2 and across ancestries

Forest plots are ordered by tables (2-5) then by loci within each table. If both traits reach genome-wide significance at a locus, then the most significant result is shown.

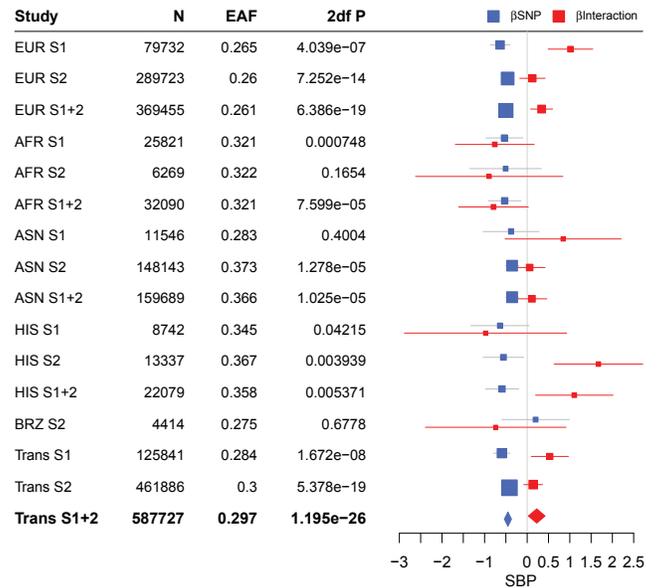
Effect of rs72640287 (T2-L3) and its interaction with EverSmk on SBP



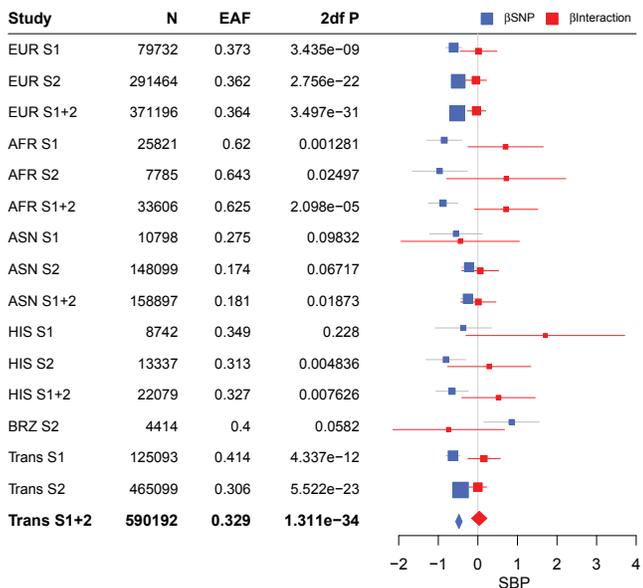
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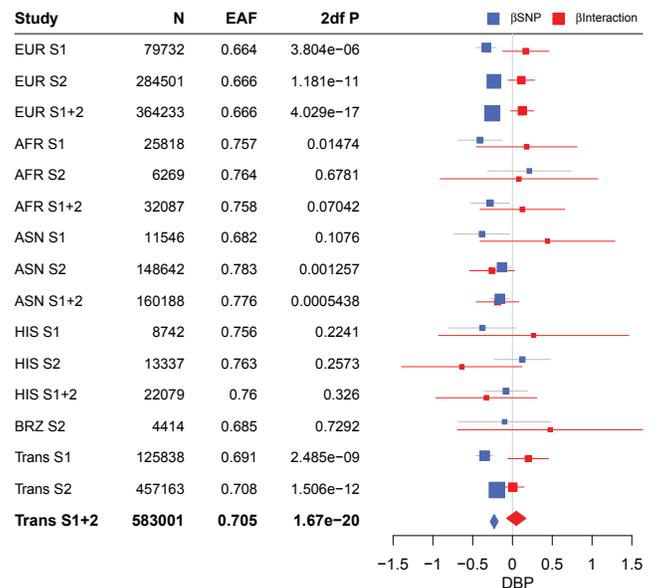
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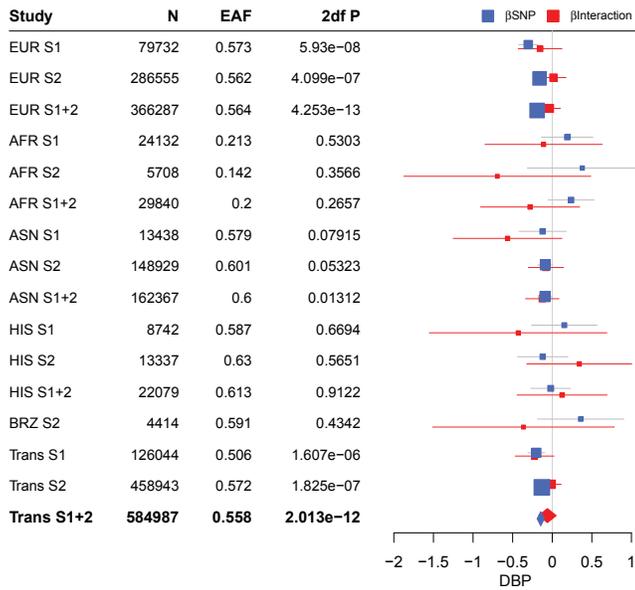
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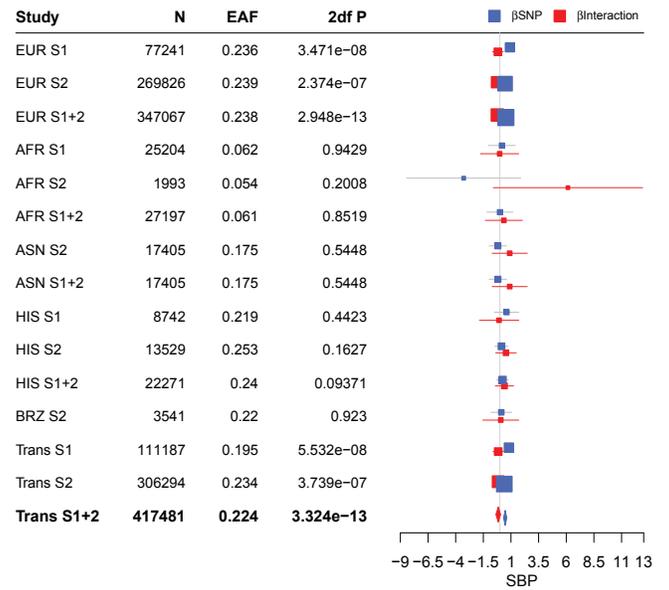
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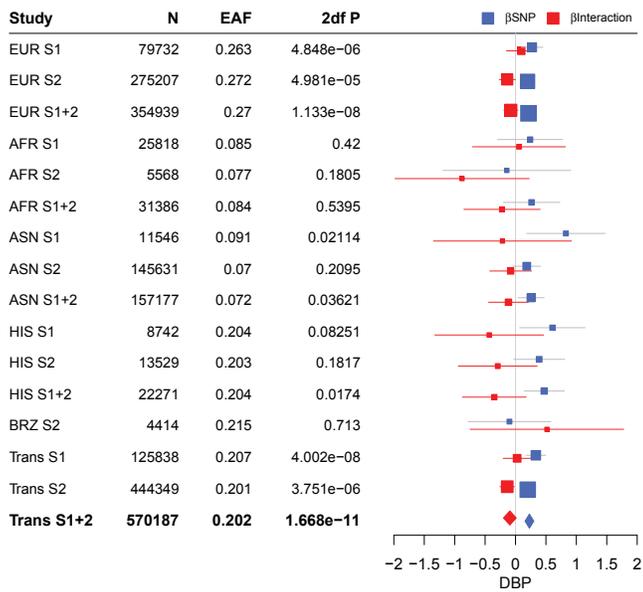
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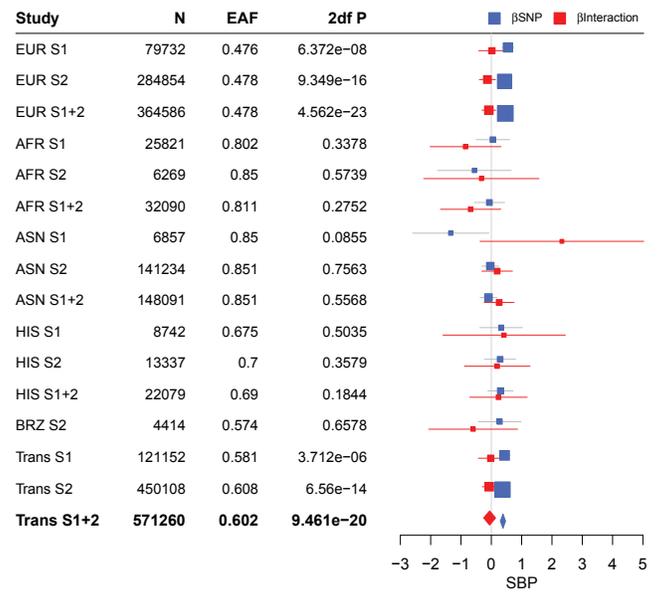
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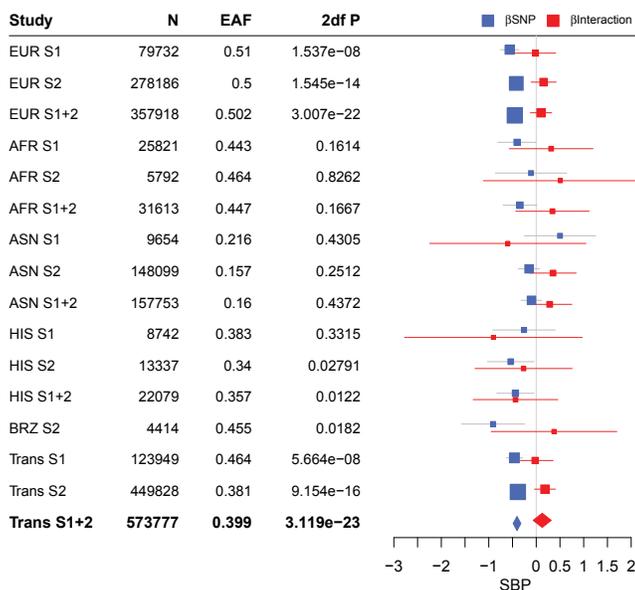
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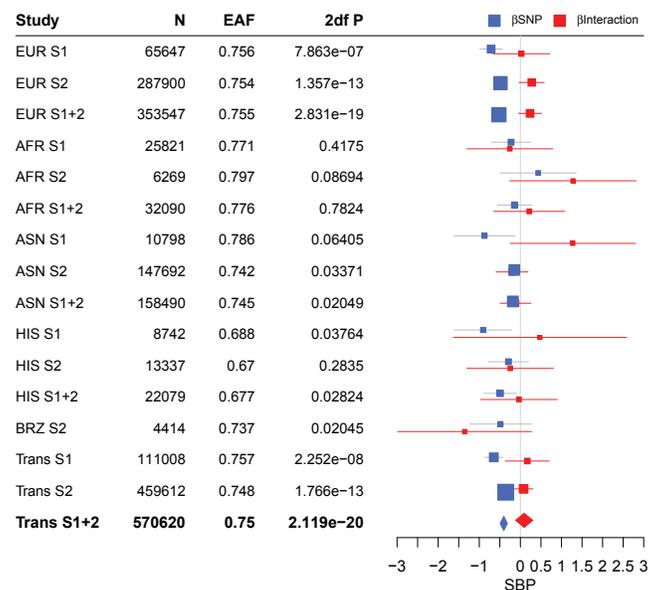
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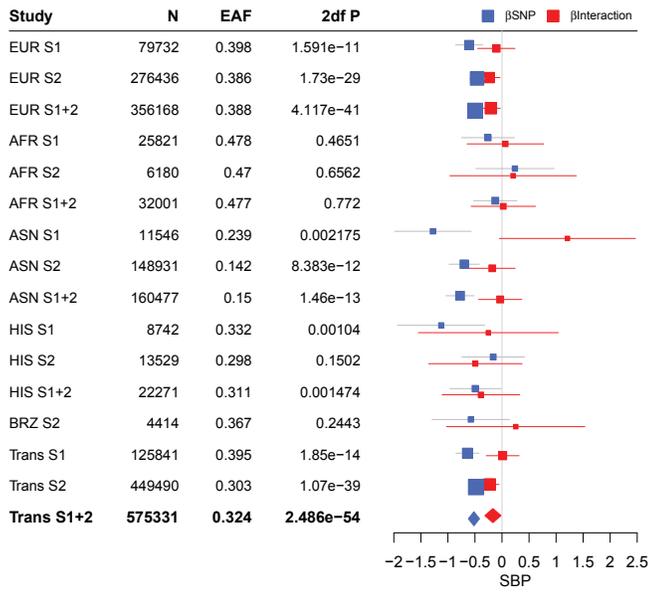
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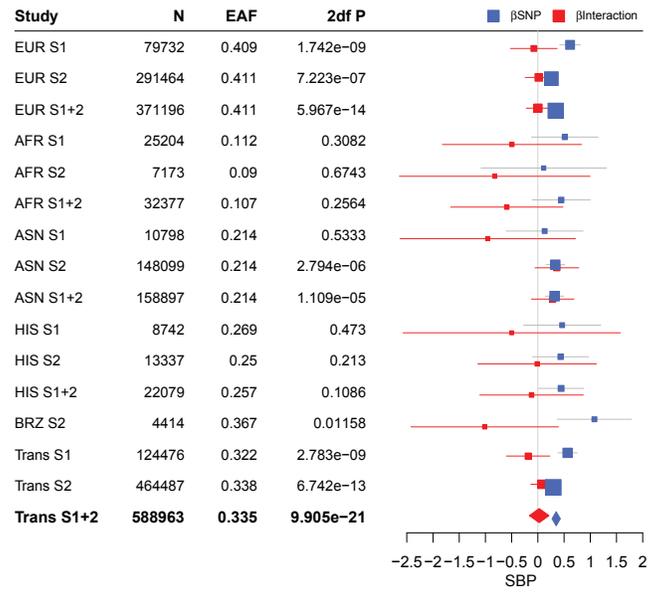
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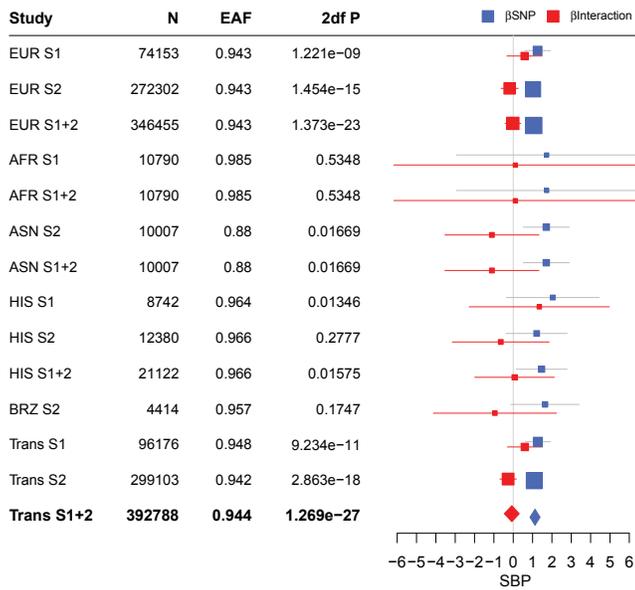
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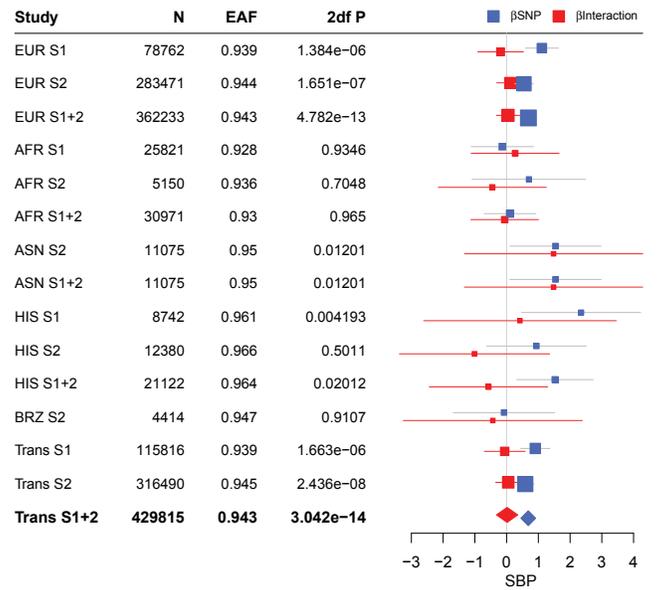
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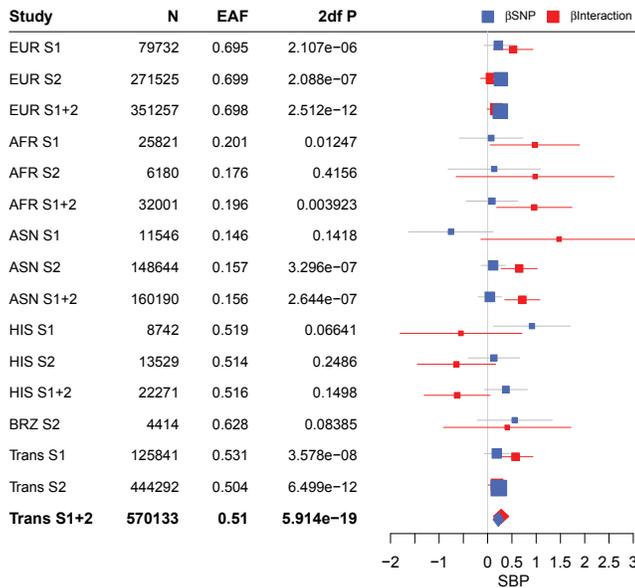
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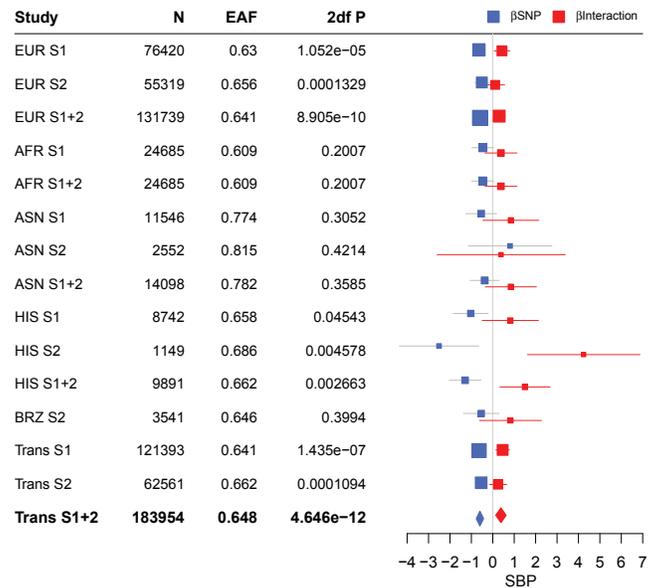
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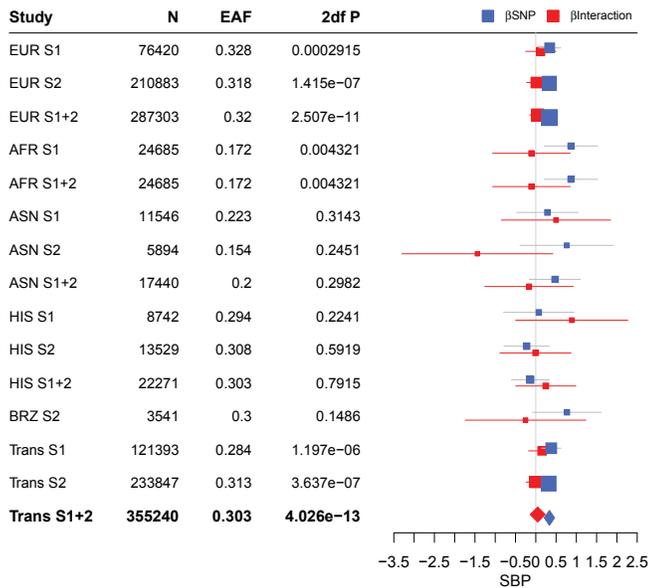
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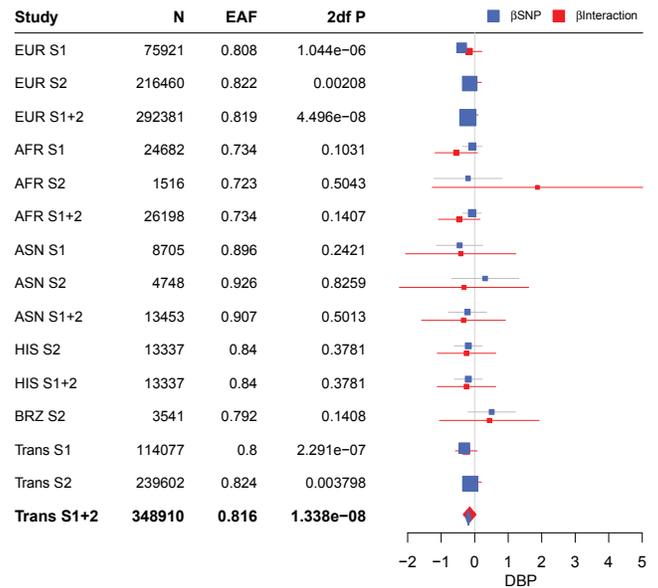
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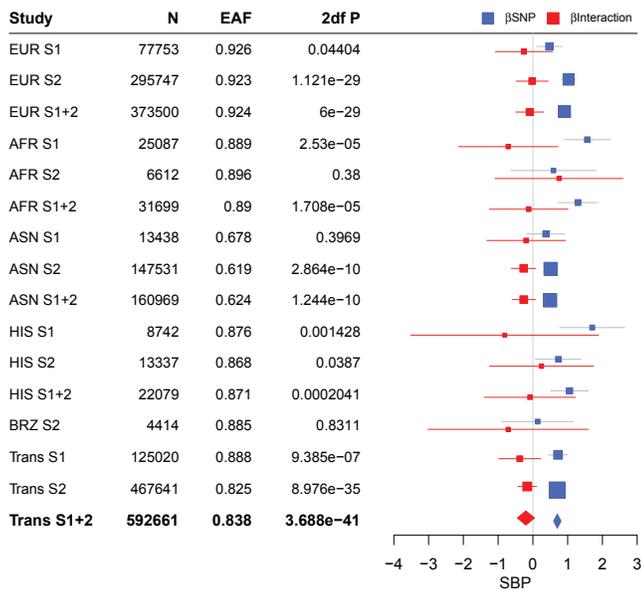
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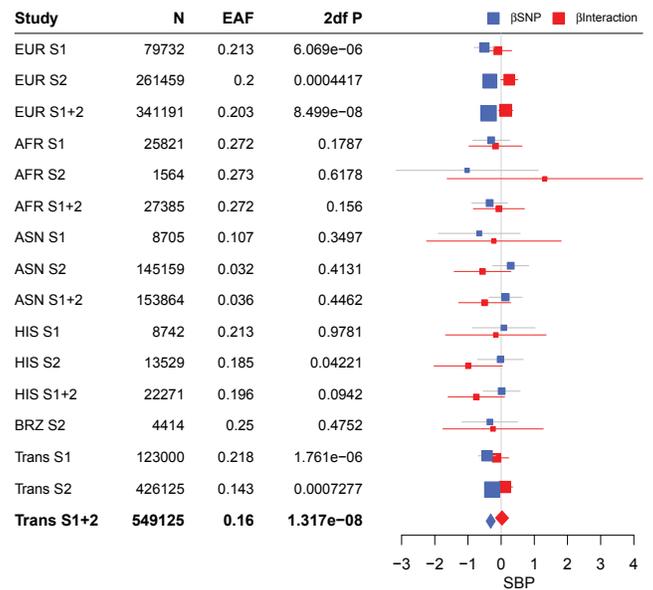
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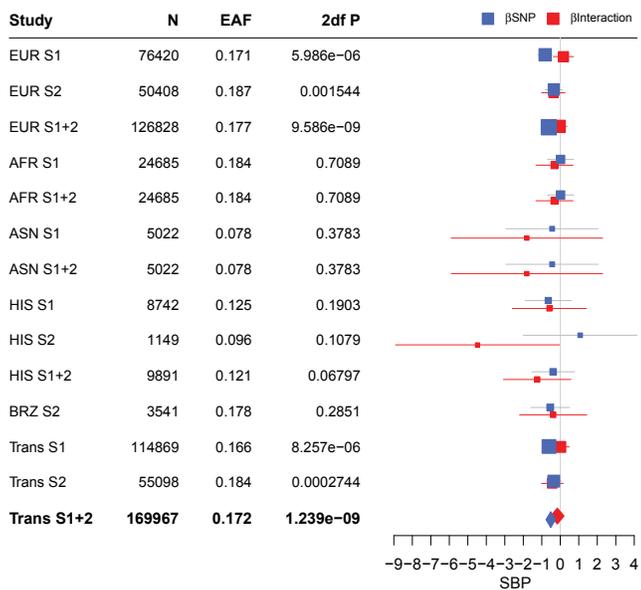
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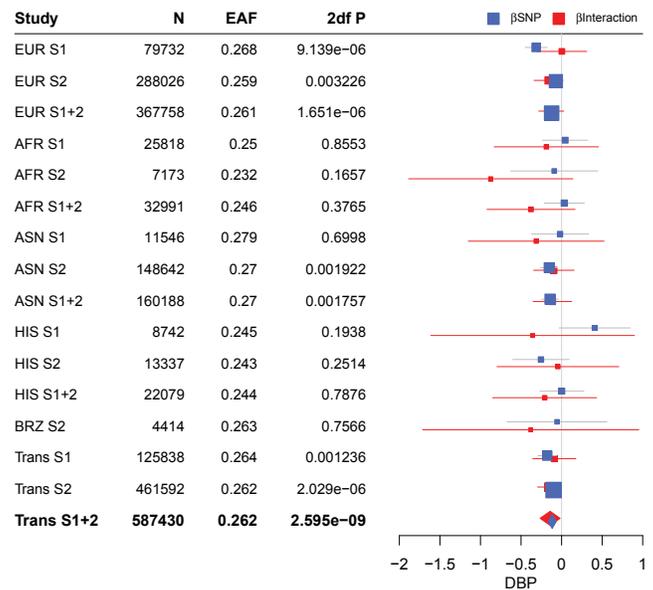
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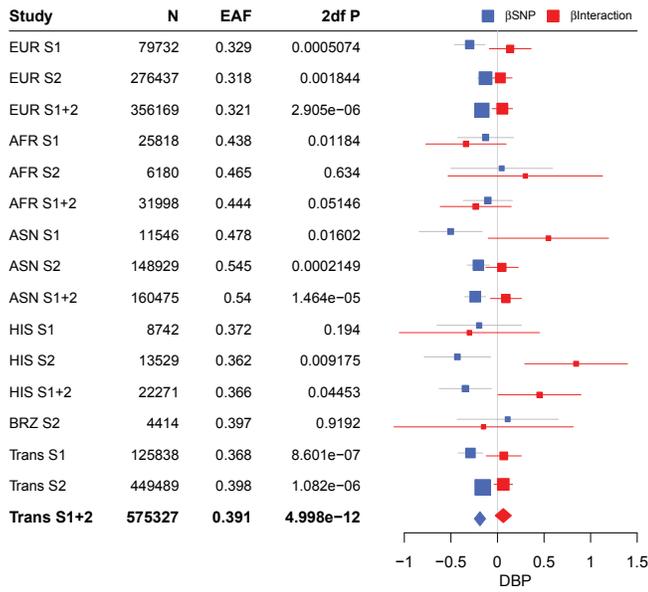
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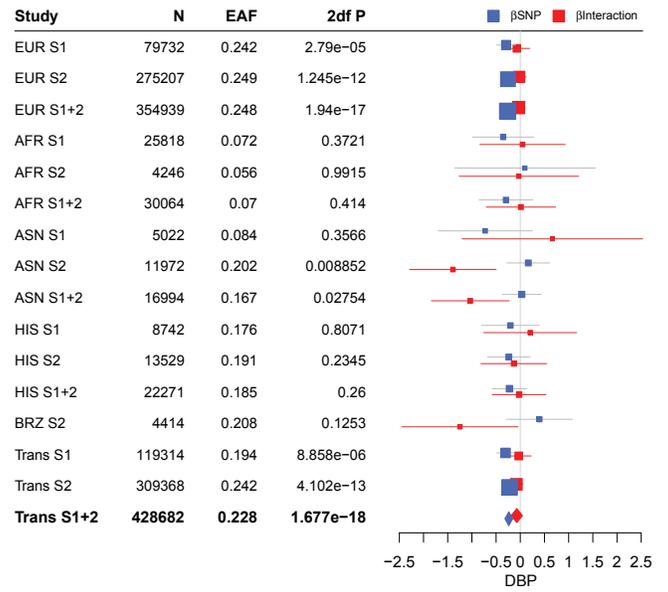
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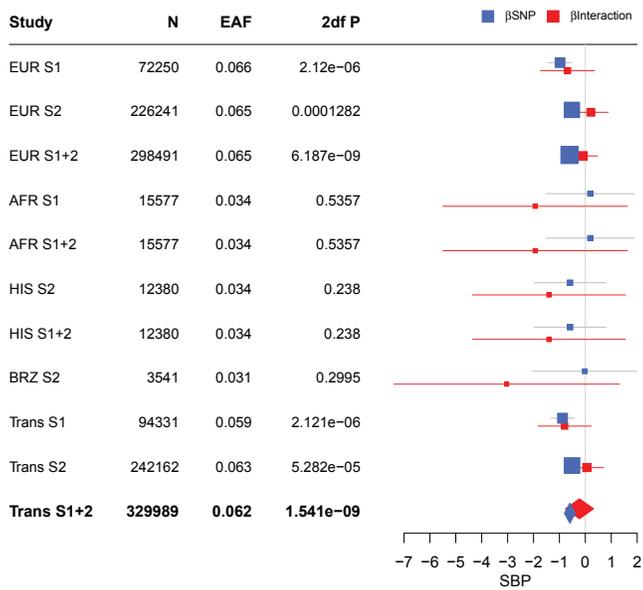
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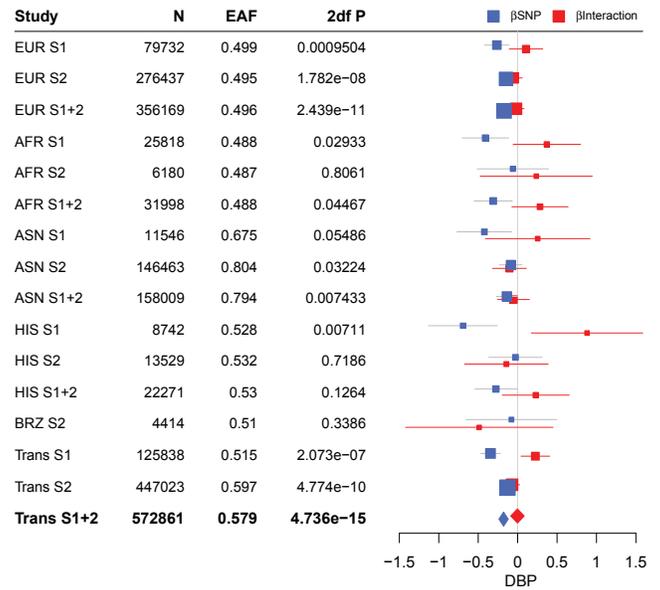
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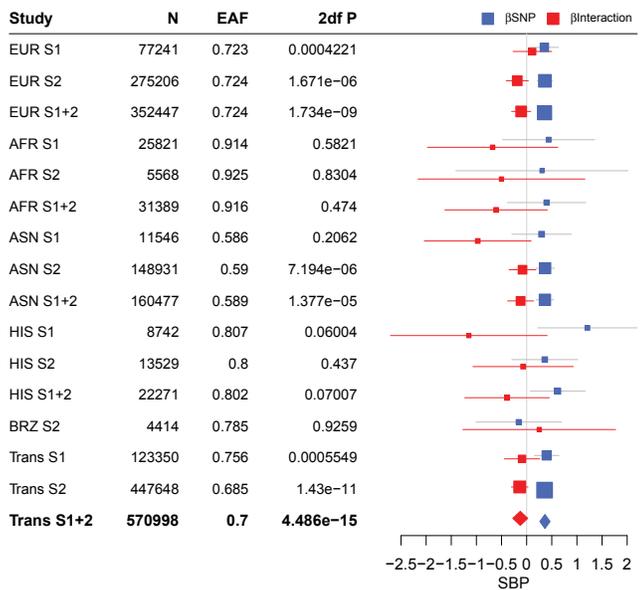
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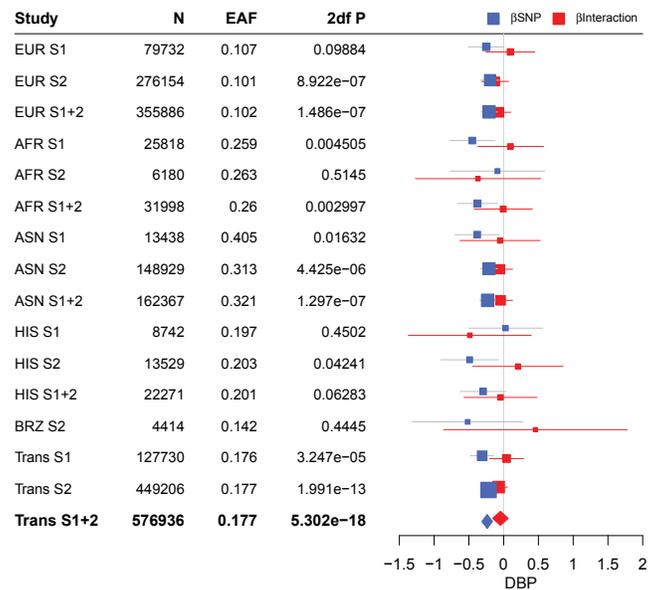
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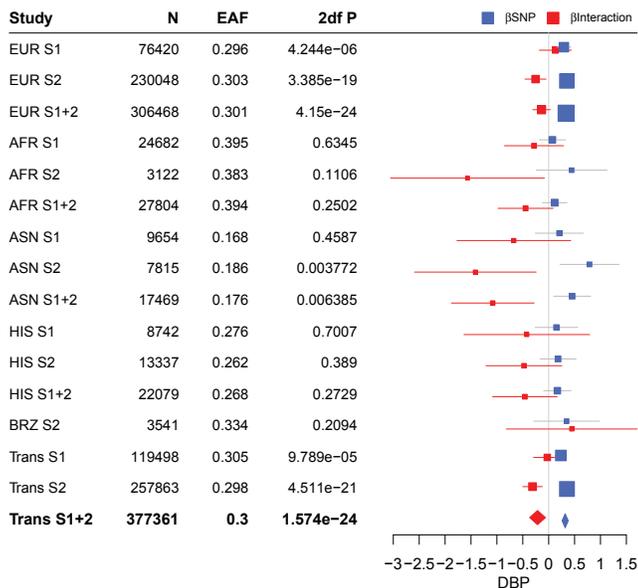
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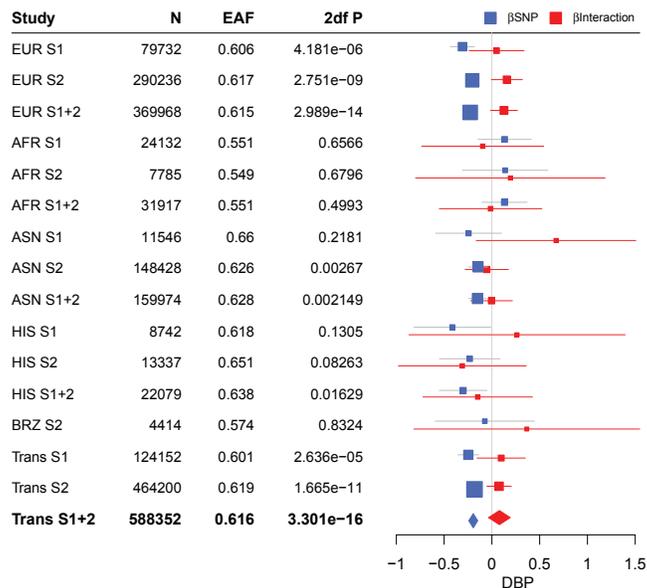
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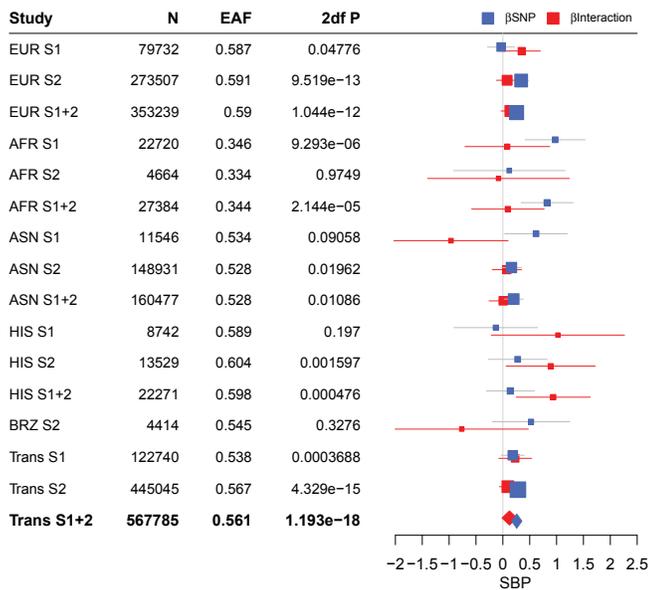
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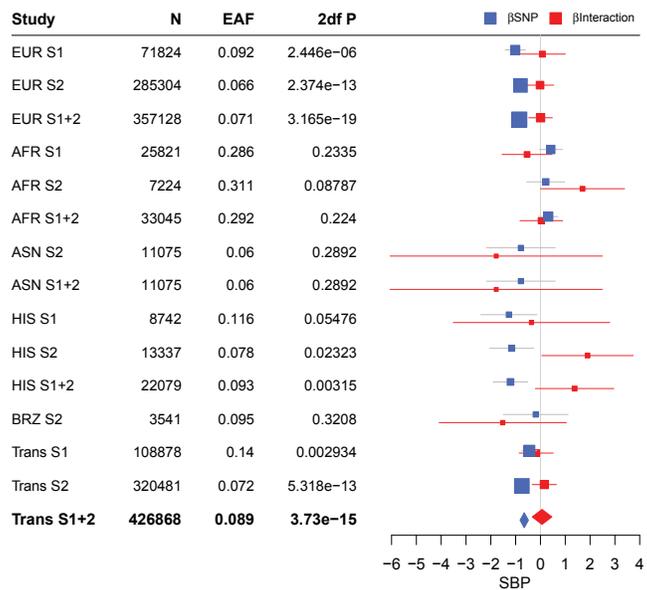
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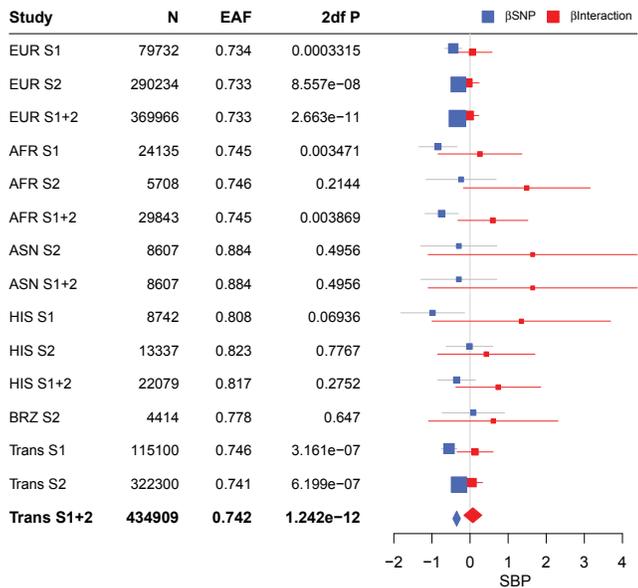
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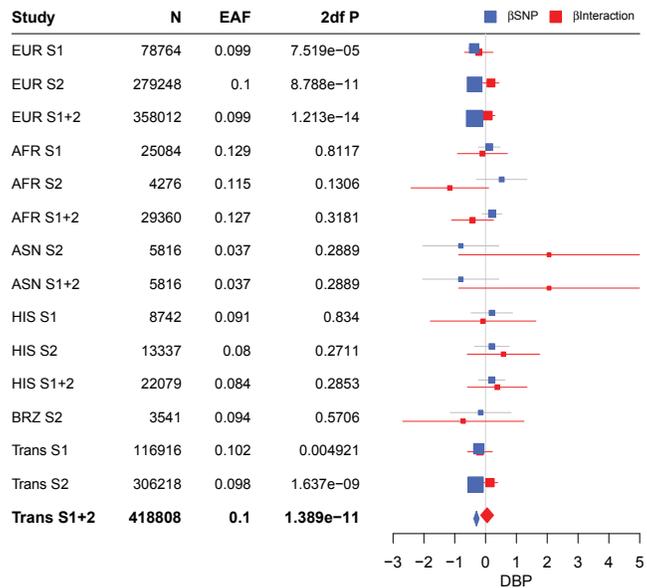
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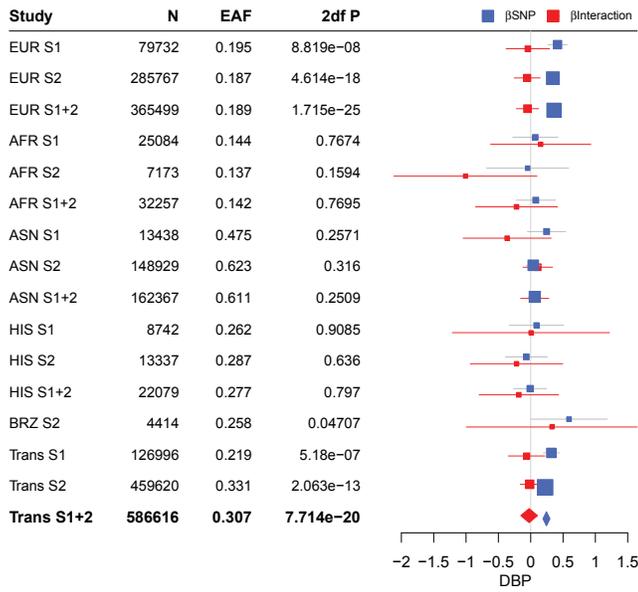
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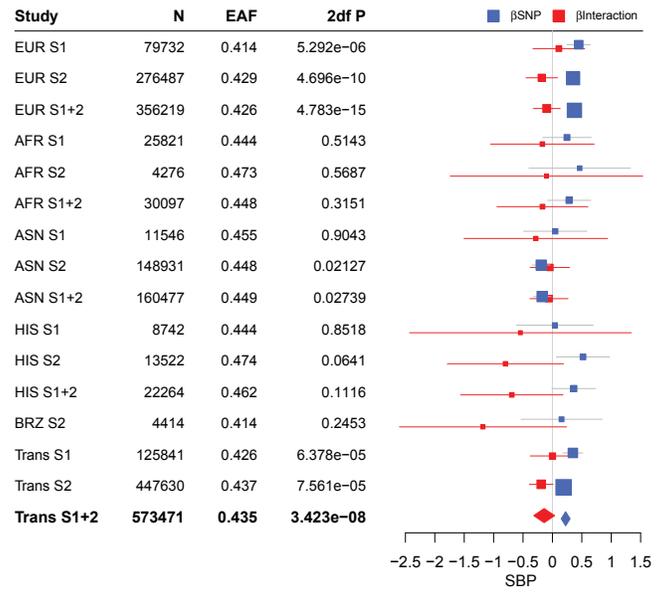
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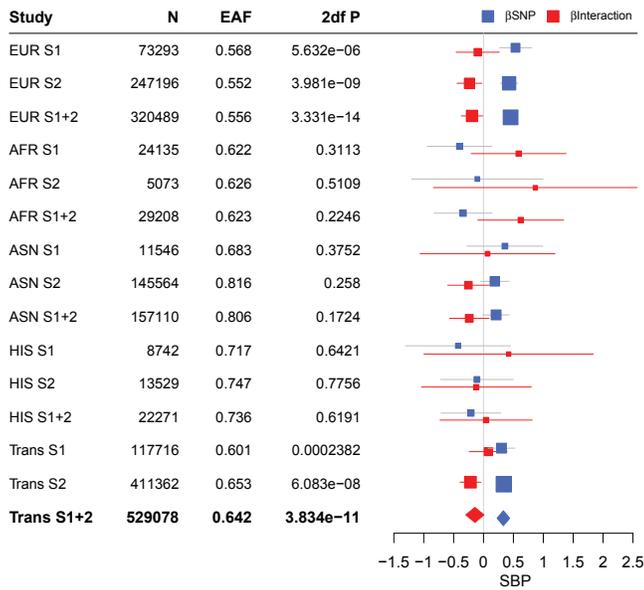
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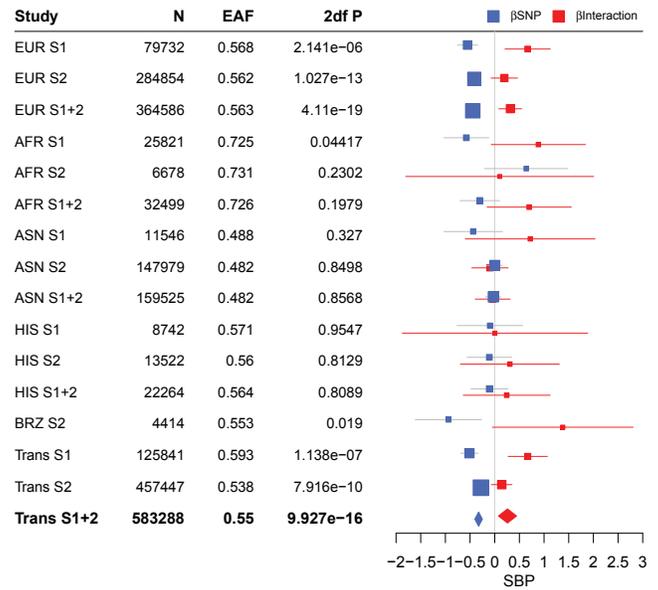
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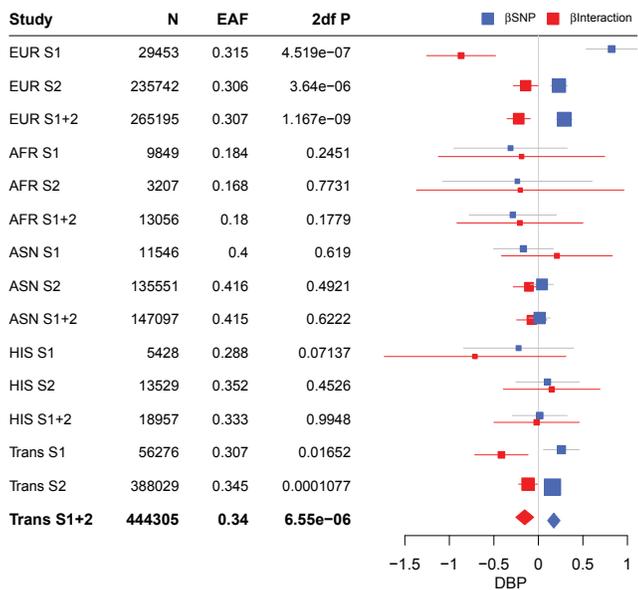
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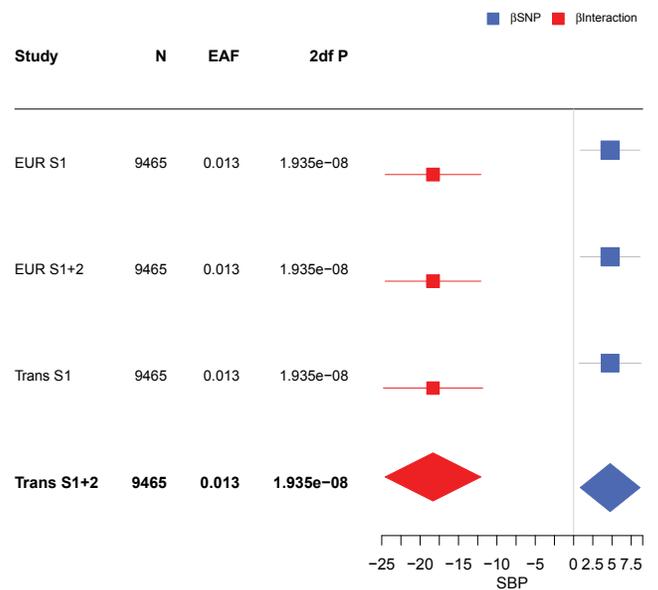
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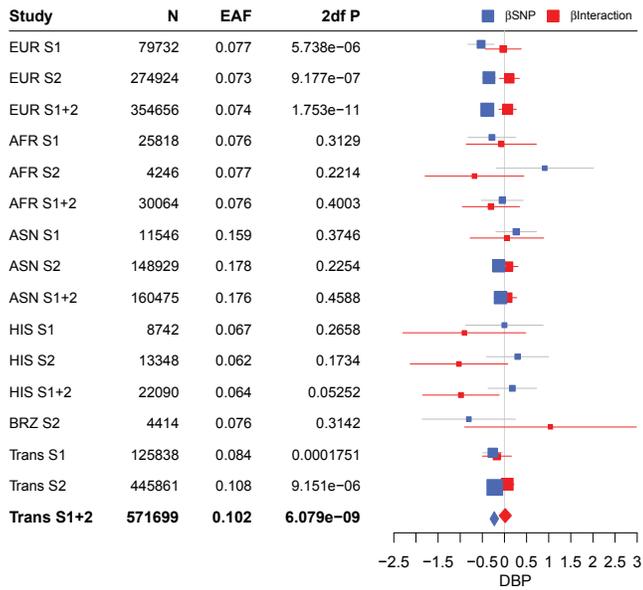
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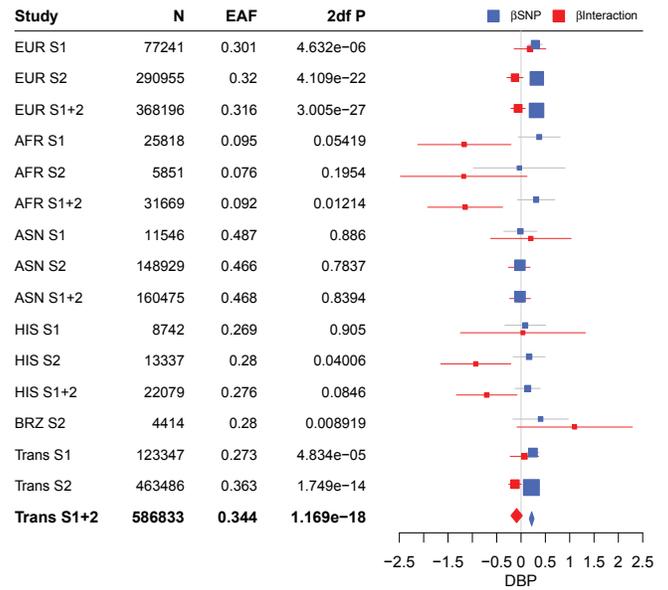
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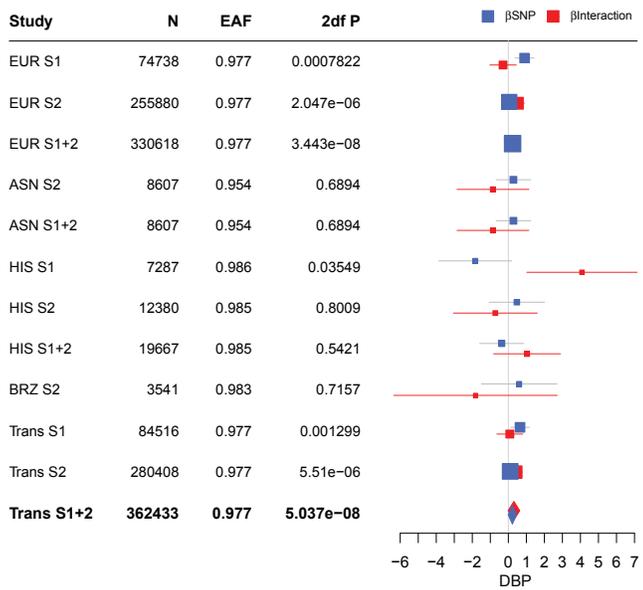
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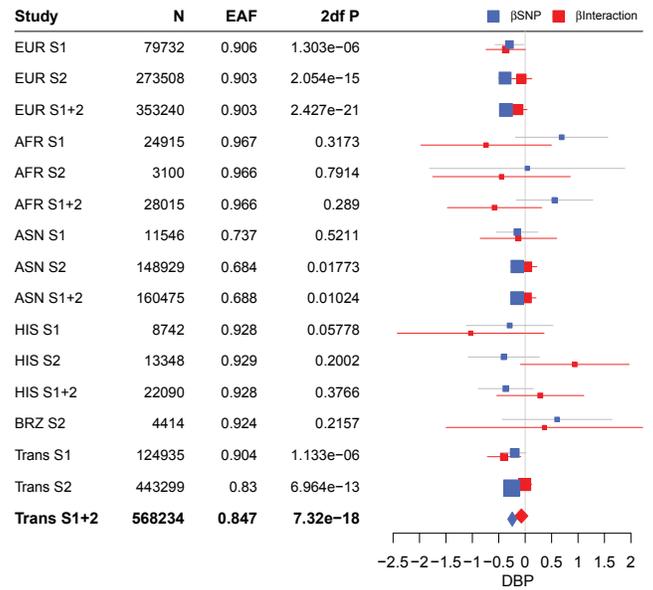
Effect of rs12050494 (T4-L12) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



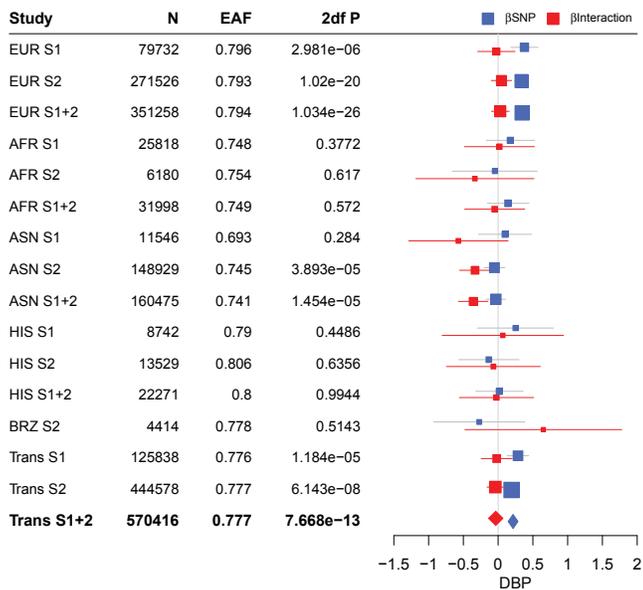
Effect of rs17713040 (T4-L10*) and its interaction with EverSmk on DBP



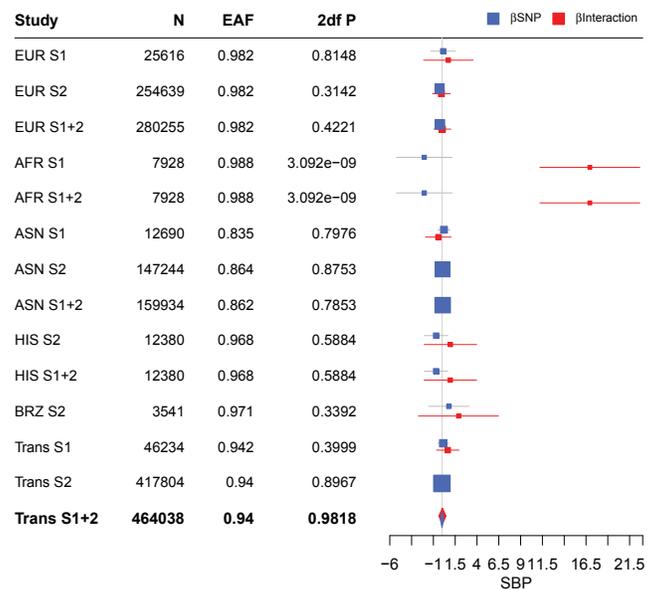
Effect of rs74439044 (T4-L13*) and its interaction with EverSmk on DBP



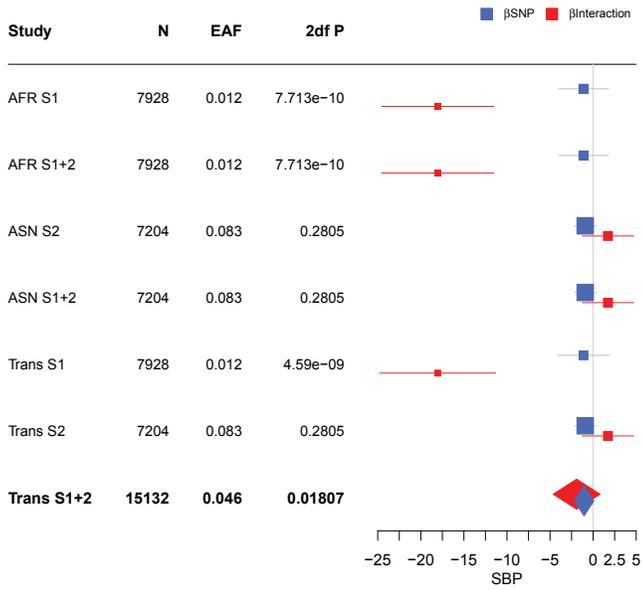
Effect of rs4375492 (T4-L11) and its interaction with EverSmk on DBP



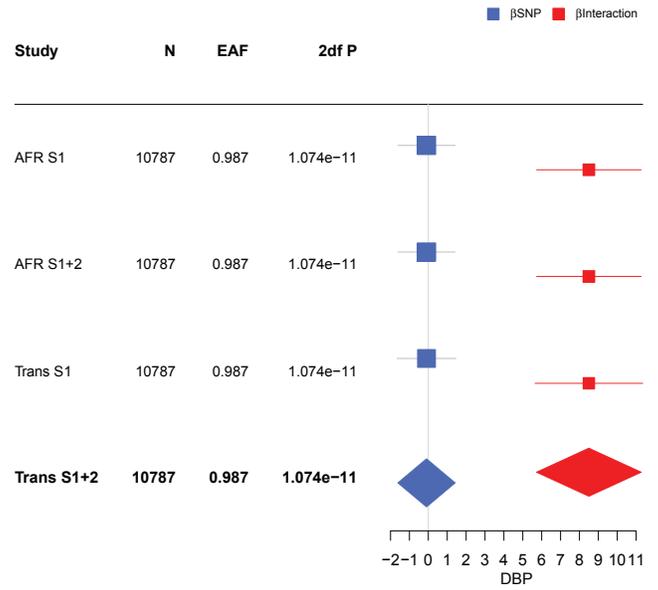
Effect of rs12135881 (T5-L1*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



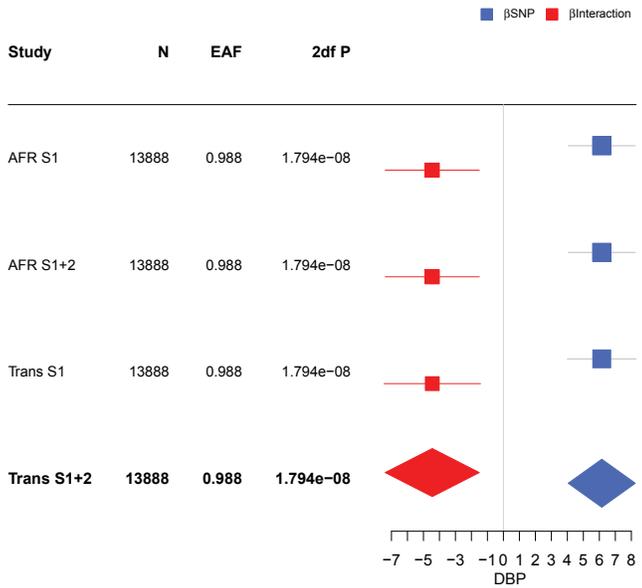
Effect of rs11809589 (T5-L2*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



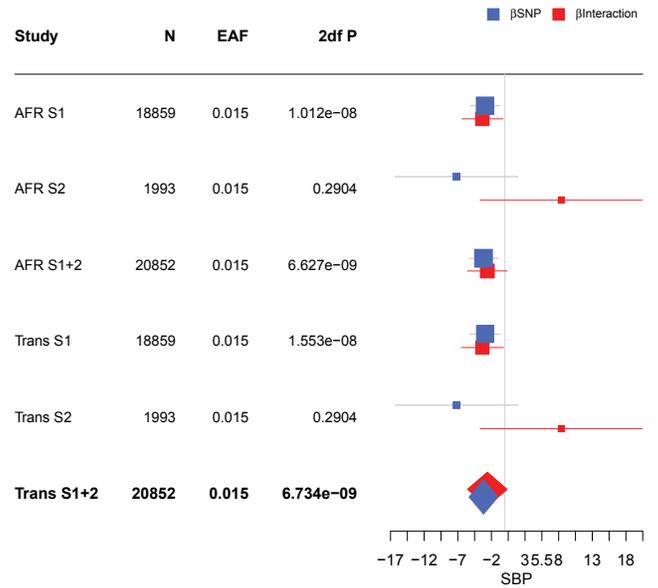
Effect of rs115234772 (T5-L5*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



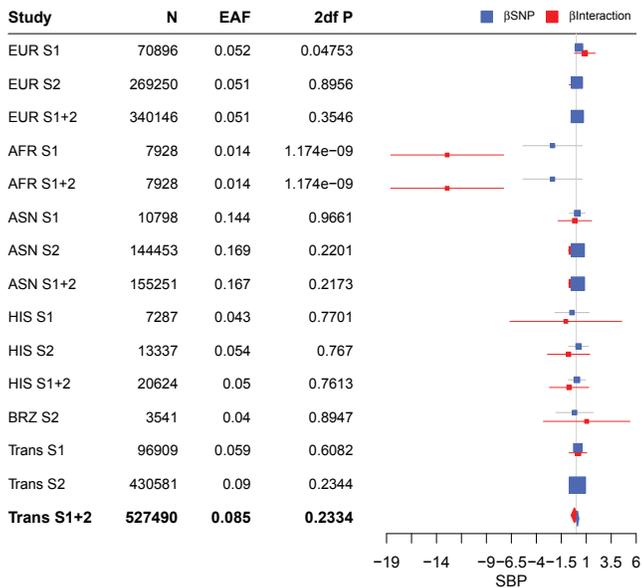
Effect of rs182662555 (T5-L3*) and its interaction with EverSmk on DBP



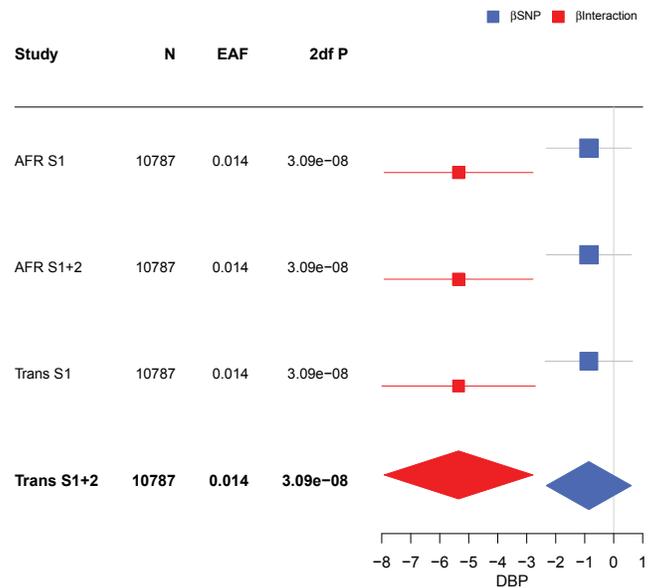
Effect of rs145162854 (T5-L6*) and its interaction with EverSmk on SBP



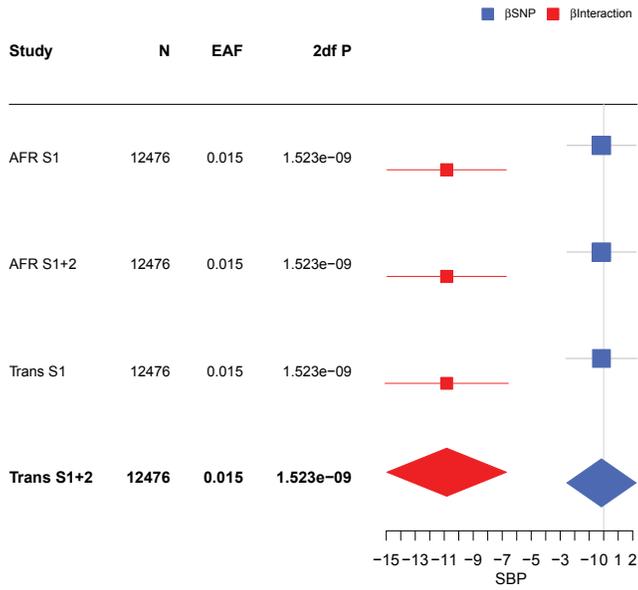
Effect of rs75247762 (T5-L4*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



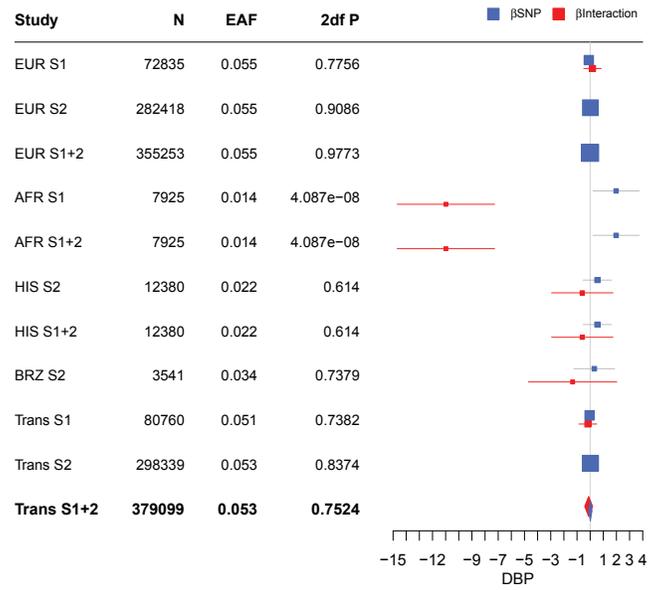
Effect of rs116008367 (T5-L7*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



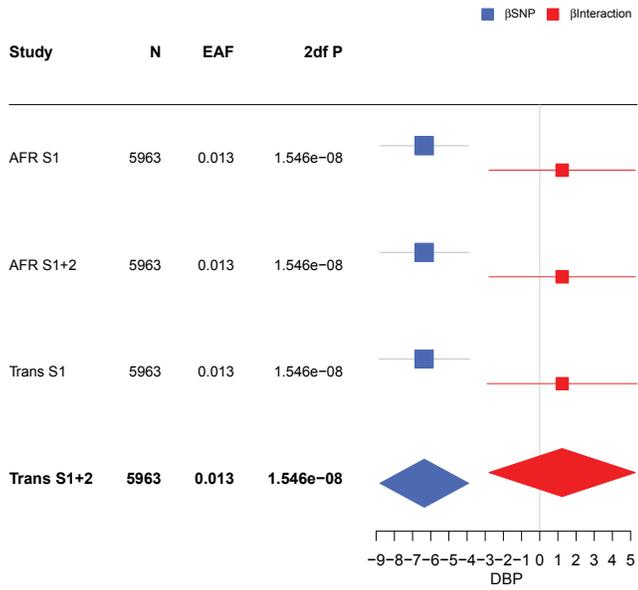
Effect of rs10166552 (T5-L8*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



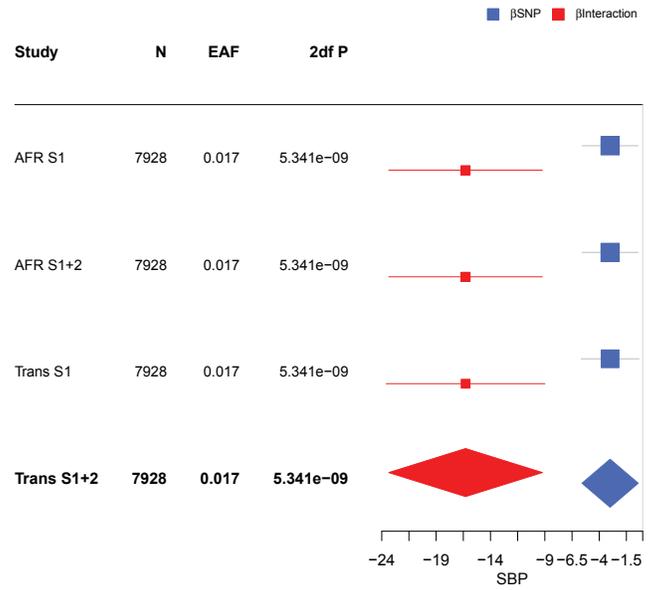
Effect of rs62319742 (T5-L11*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



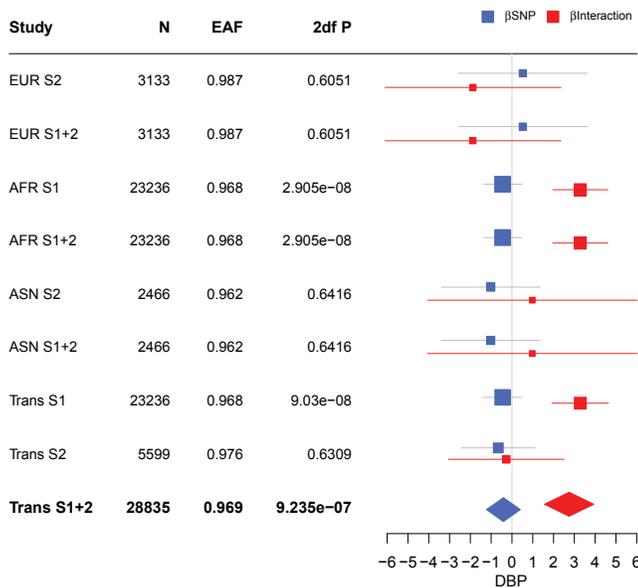
Effect of rs139963642 (T5-L9*) and its interaction with EverSmk on DBP



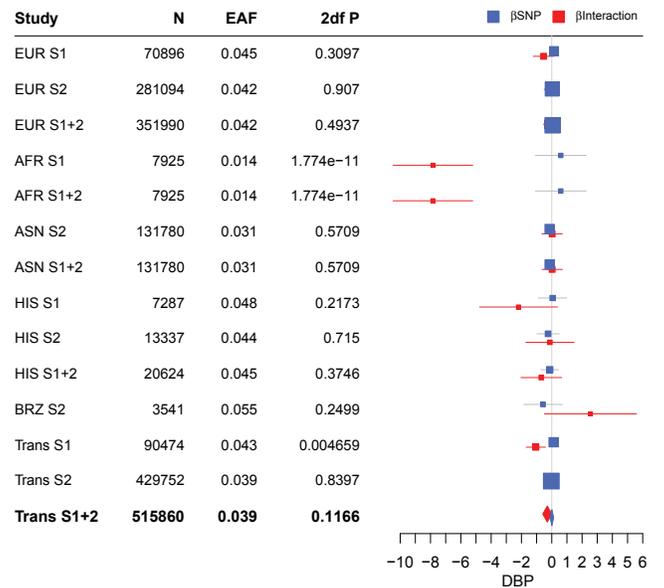
Effect of rs140543491 (T5-L12*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



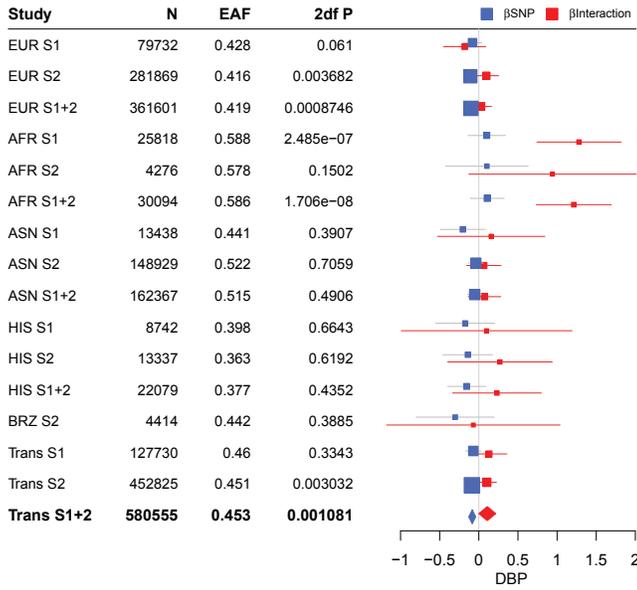
Effect of rs11931572 (T5-L10*) and its interaction with EverSmk on DBP



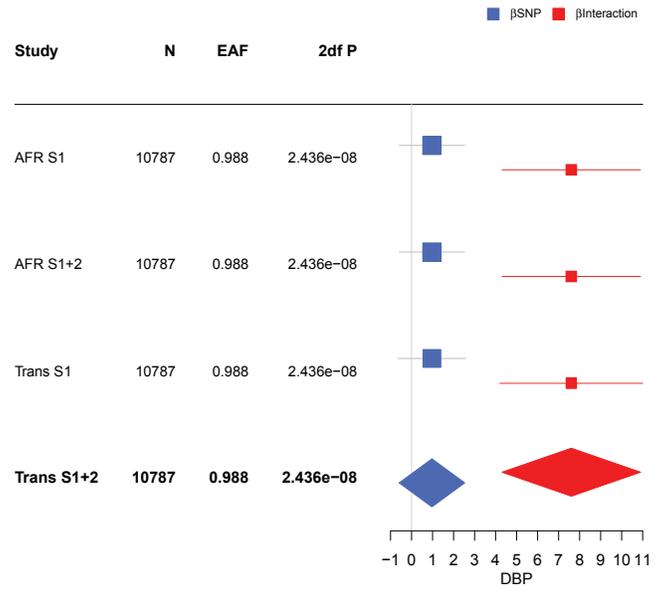
Effect of rs148387718 (T5-L13*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



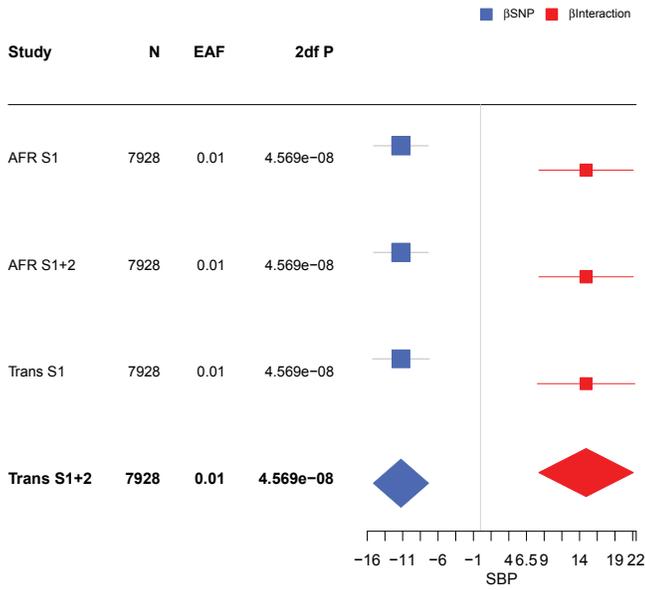
Effect of rs9348895 (T5-L14*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



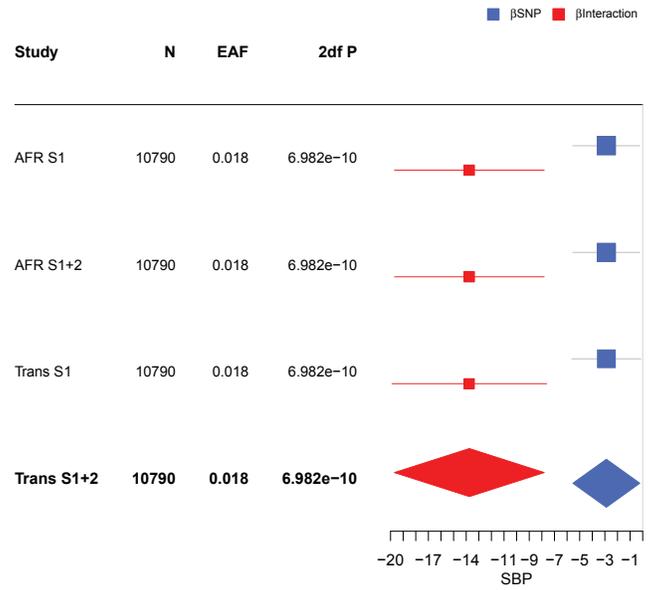
Effect of rs112140754 (T5-L17*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



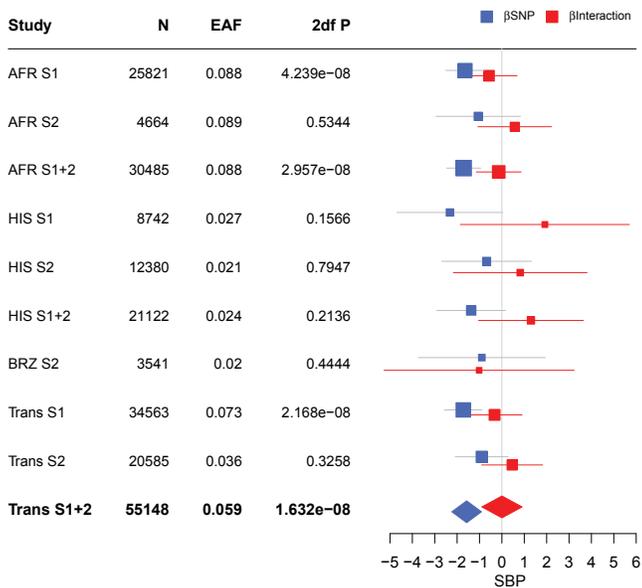
Effect of rs58806982 (T5-L15*) and its interaction with EverSmk on SBP



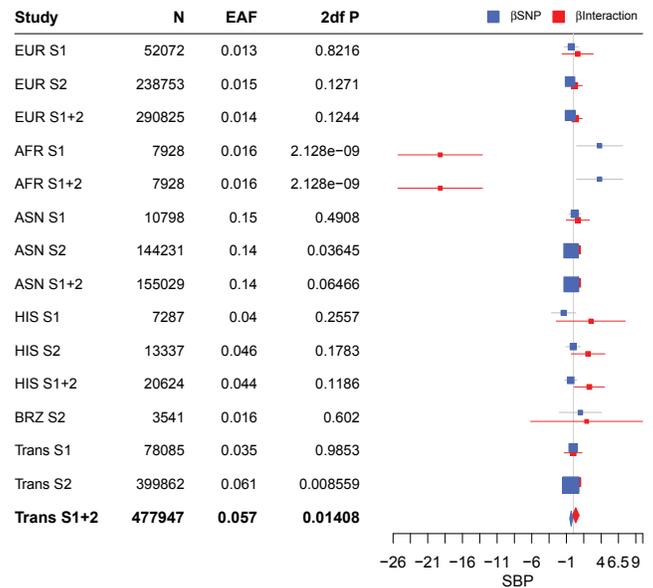
Effect of rs116196735 (T5-L18*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



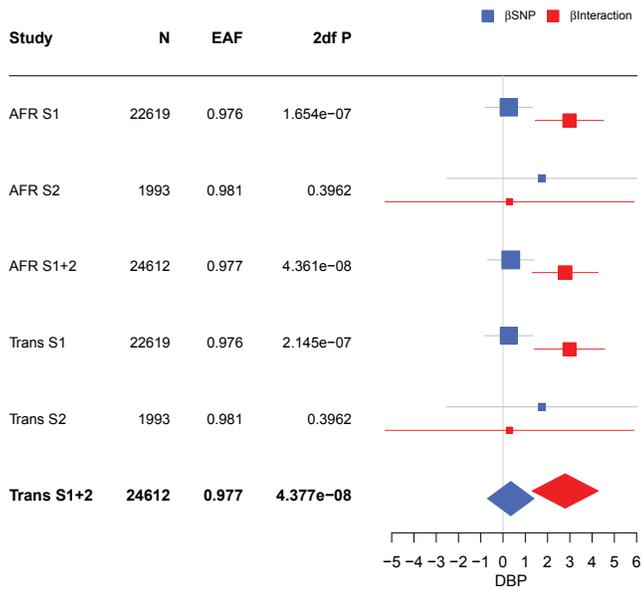
Effect of rs76987554 (T5-L16*) and its interaction with EverSmk on SBP



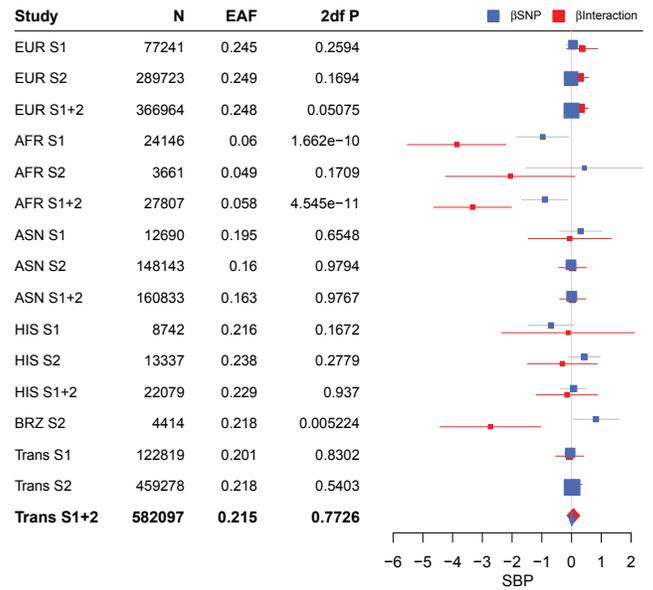
Effect of rs74701635 (T5-L19*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



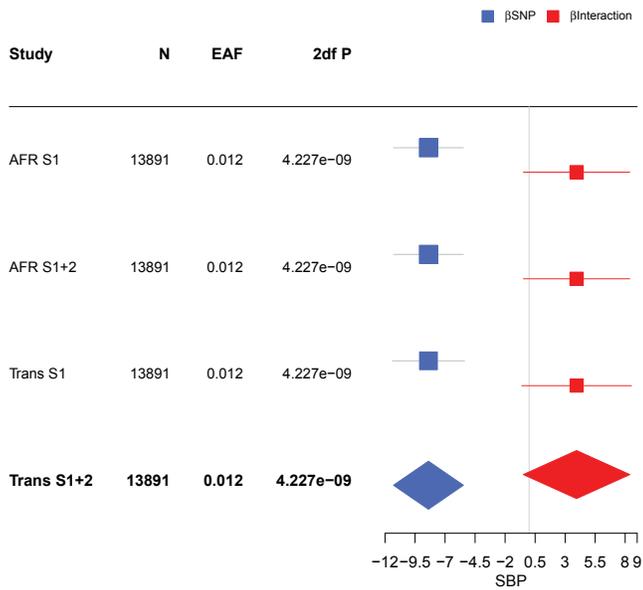
Effect of rs146250839 (T5-L20*) and its interaction with EverSmk on DBP



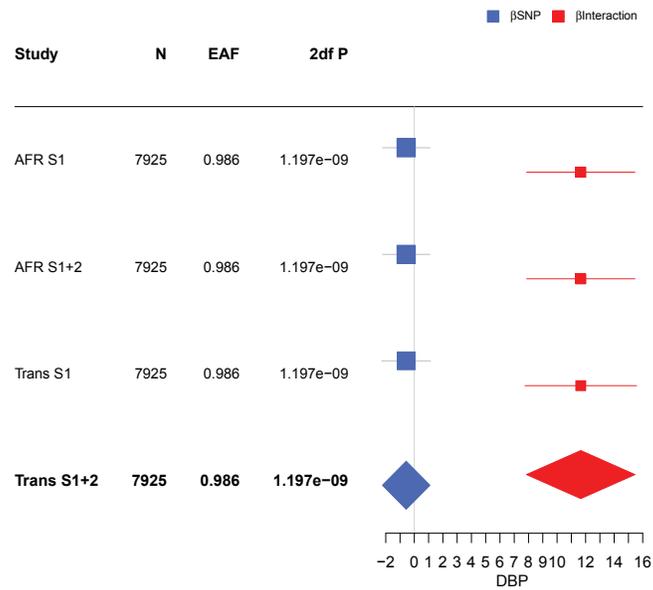
Effect of rs11599481 (T5-L23*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



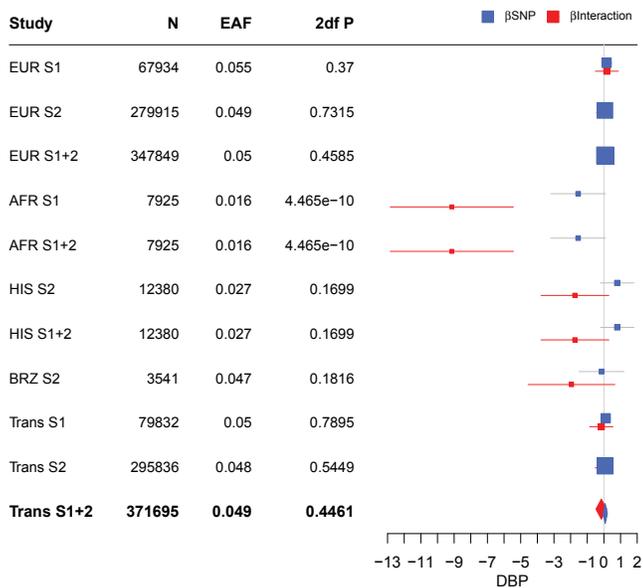
Effect of rs192642798 (T5-L21*) and its interaction with EverSmk on SBP



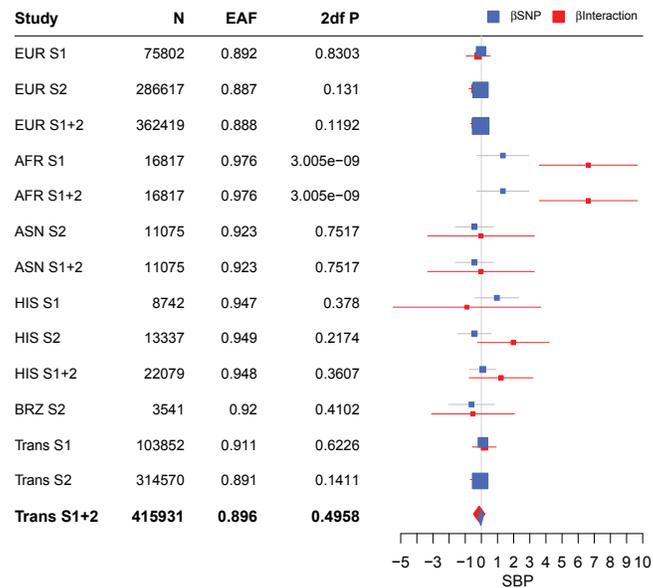
Effect of rs148772934 (T5-L24*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



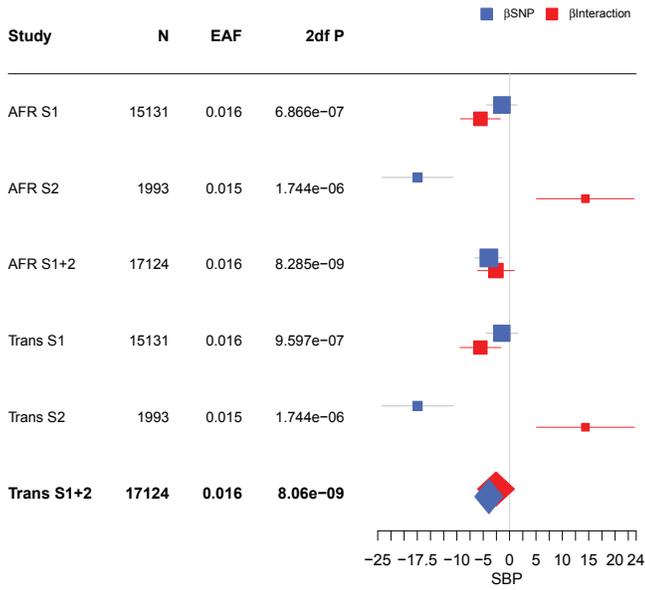
Effect of rs76726877 (T5-L22*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



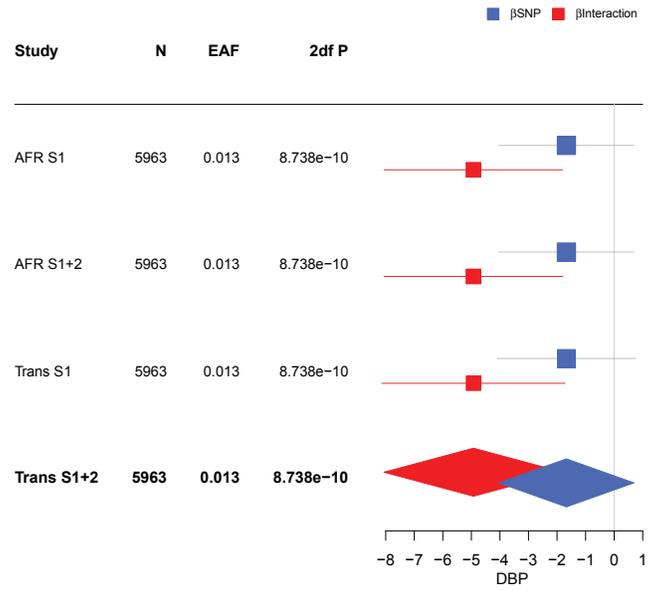
Effect of rs11601370 (T5-L25) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



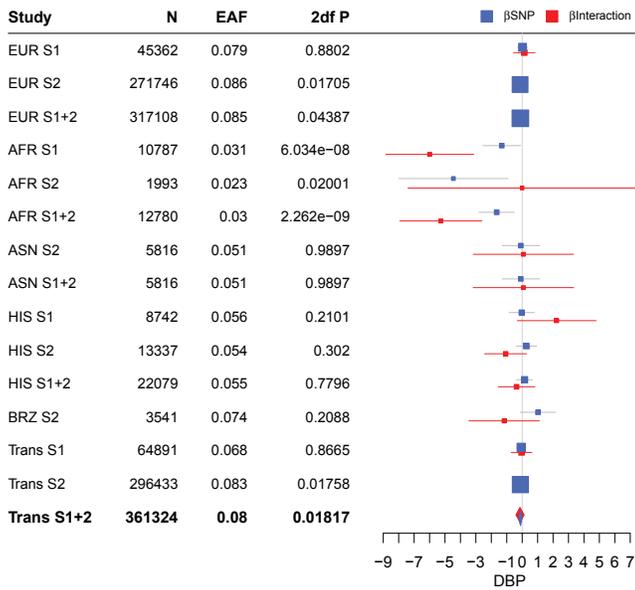
Effect of rs74601585 (T5-L26*) and its interaction with EverSmk on SBP



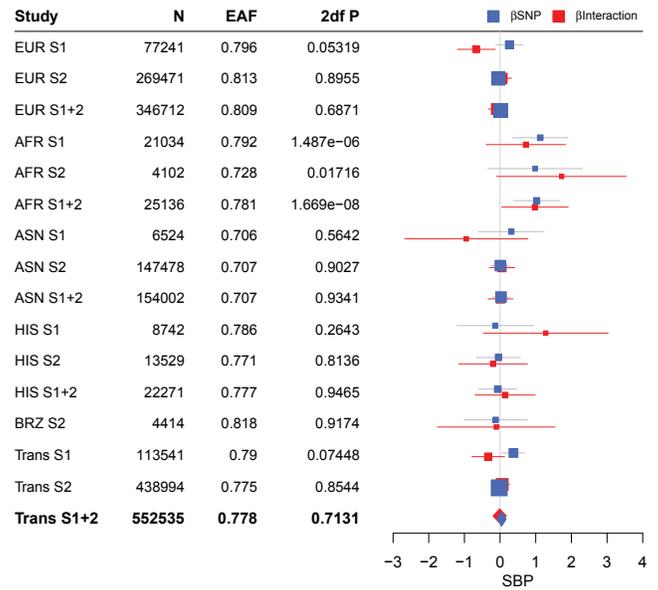
Effect of rs187852559 (T5-L29*) and its interaction with EverSmk on DBP



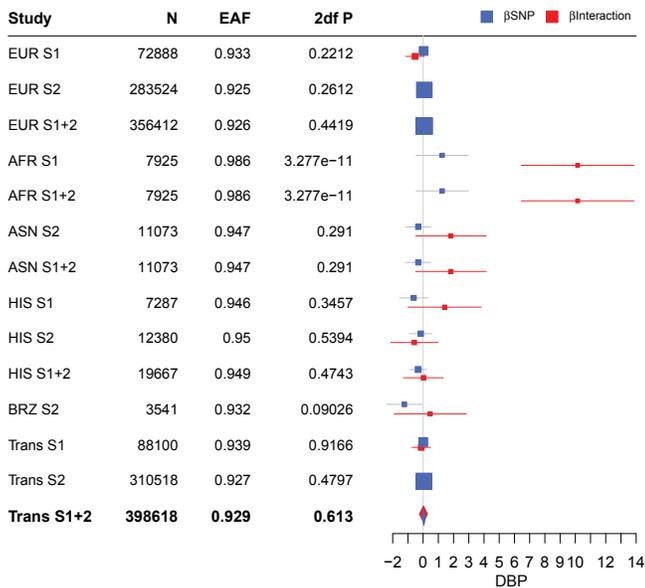
Effect of rs78103586 (T5-L27*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



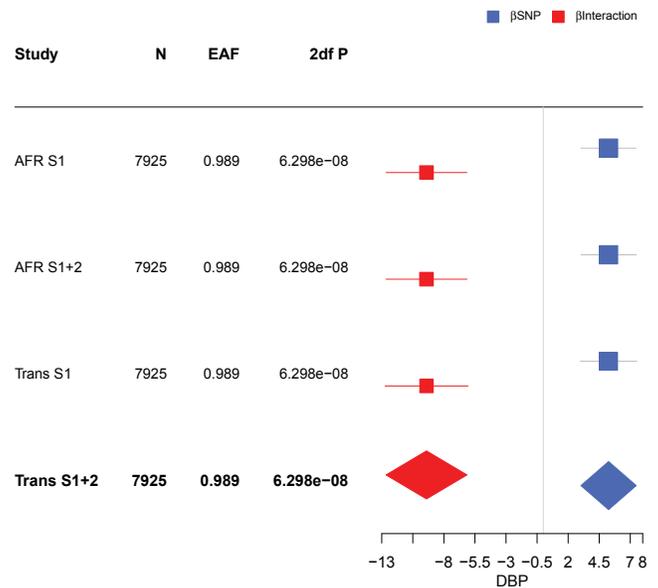
Effect of rs1257310 (T5-L30*) and its interaction with EverSmk on SBP



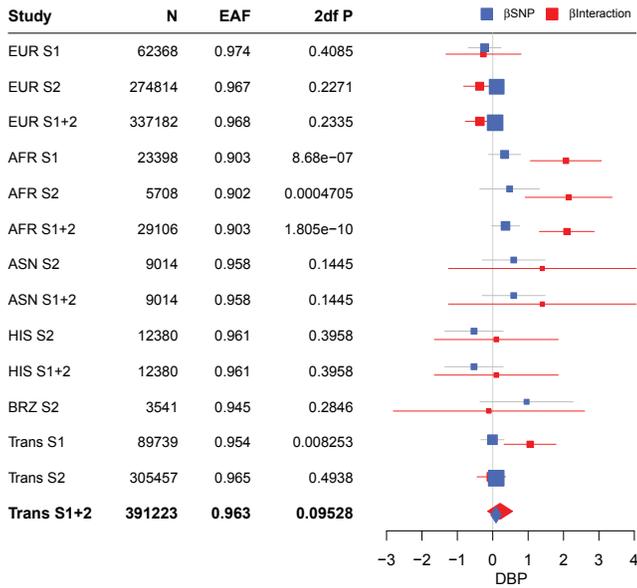
Effect of rs61935525 (T5-L28*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



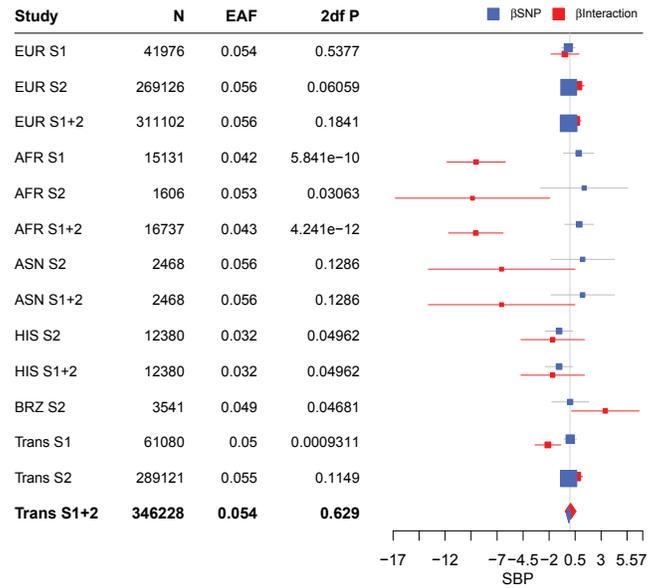
Effect of rs148753653 (T5-L31) and its interaction with EverSmk on DBP



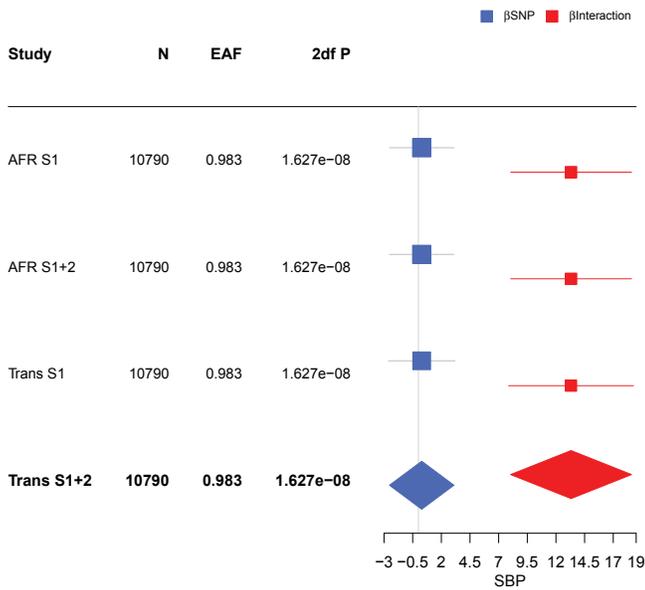
Effect of rs138973557 (T5-L32*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



Effect of rs115893283 (T5-L35*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



Effect of rs9965695 (T5-L33*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



Effect of rs10405764 (T5-L34*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP

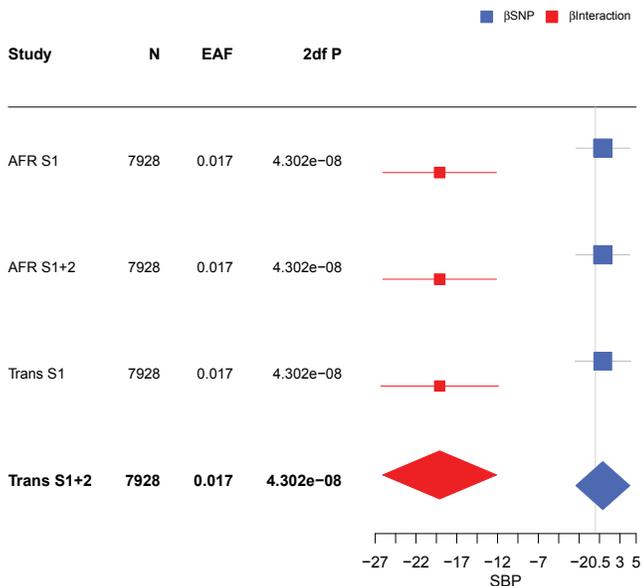
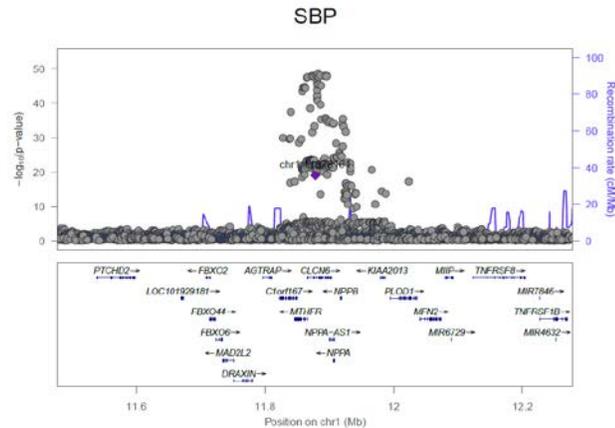


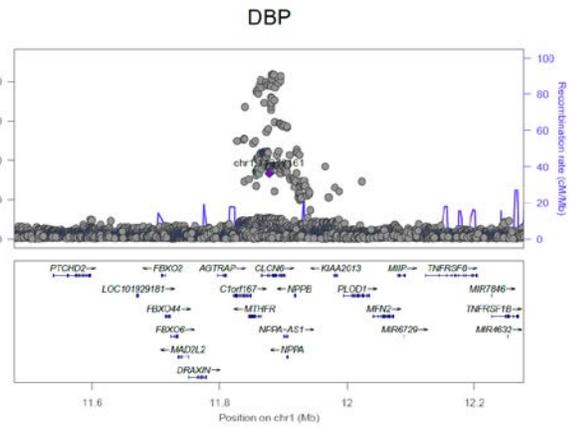
Figure S4: LocusZoom plots for the 81 newly identified loci (Tables 2-5).

LocusZoom plots are ordered by tables (2-5) then by loci within each table. Each locus has at least one BP trait reaching genome-wide significance. If both traits reach genome-wide significance at a locus, then two plots are shown. T2-L1.A and T2-L1.B refer to association with SBP and DBP, respectively, at locus 1 in Table 2.

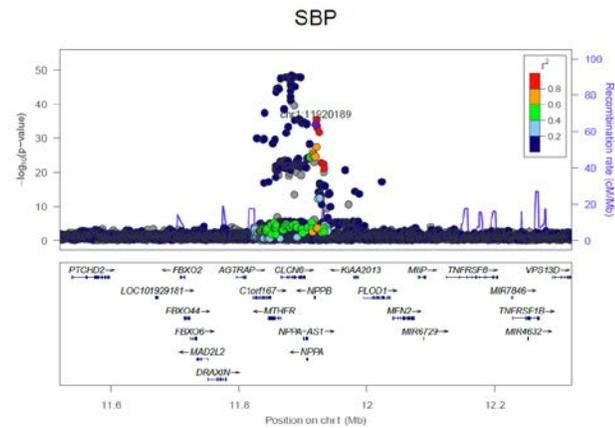
T2 - L1.A



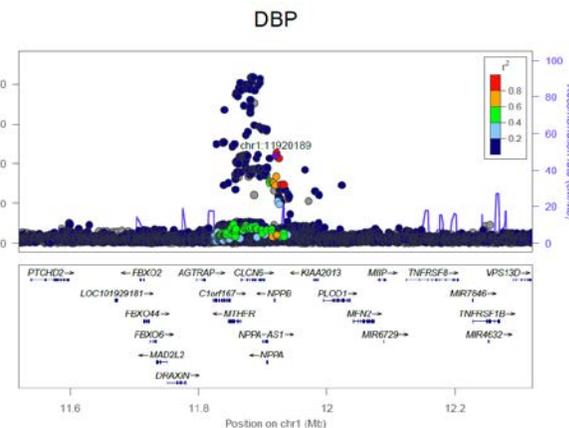
T2 - L1.B



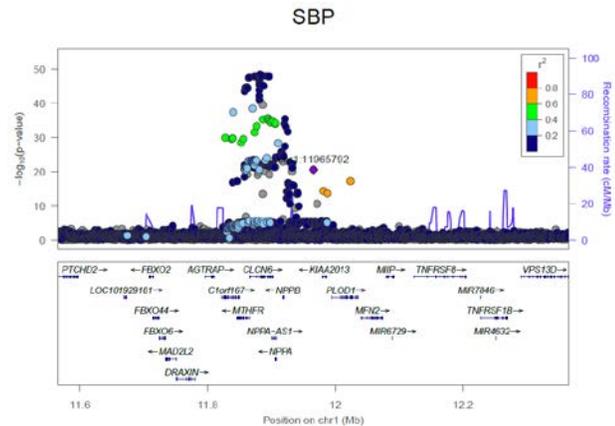
T2 - L2.A



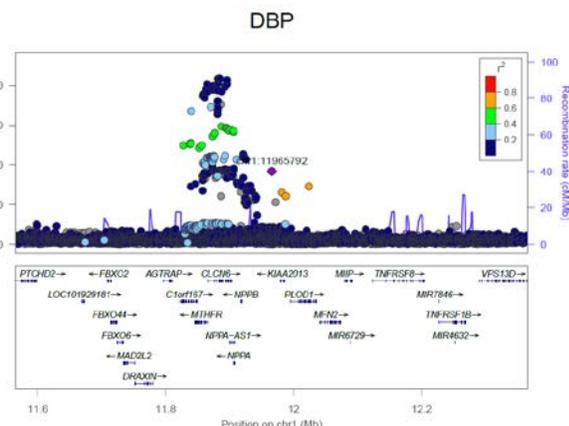
T2 - L2.B



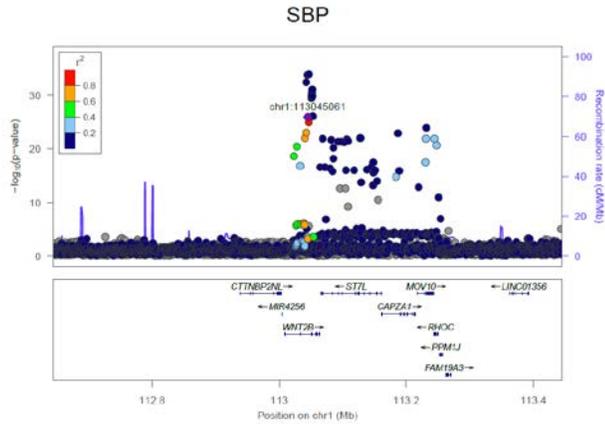
T2 - L3.A



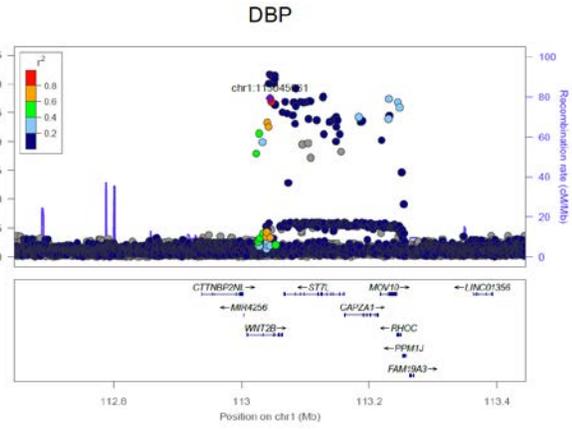
T2 - L3.B



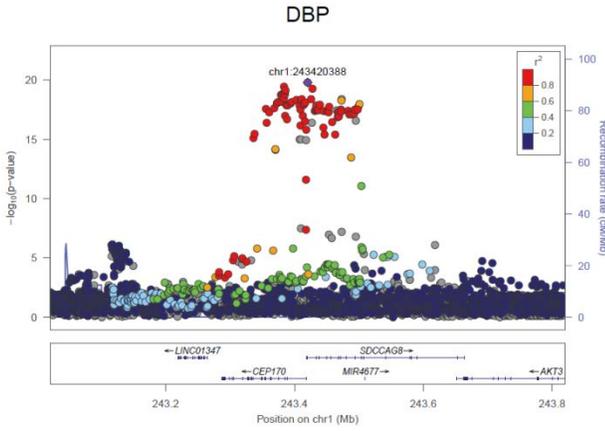
T2 - L4.A



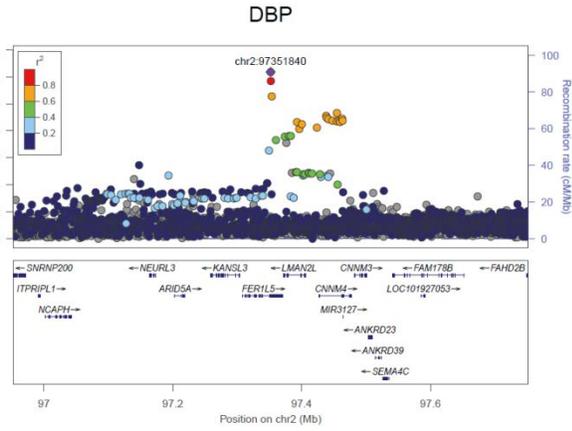
T2 - L4.B



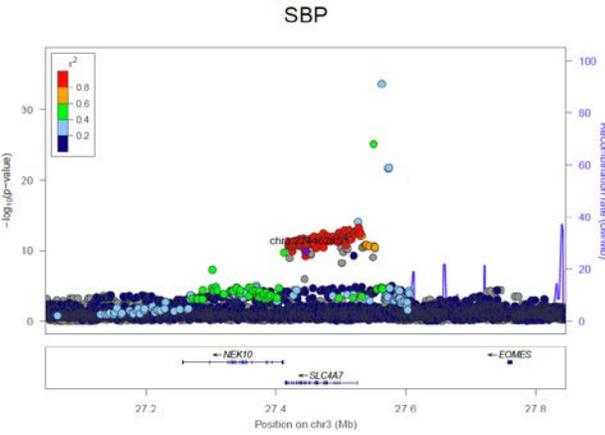
T2 - L5



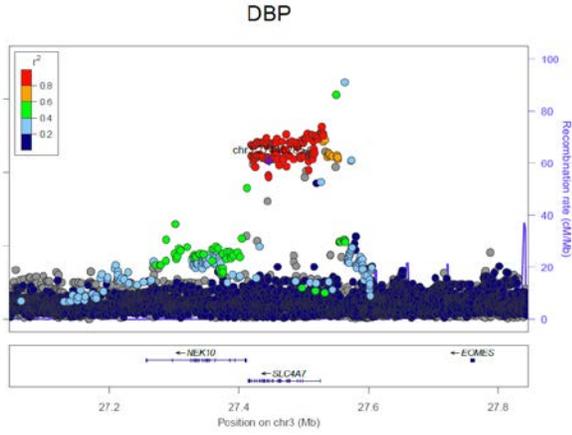
T2 - L6



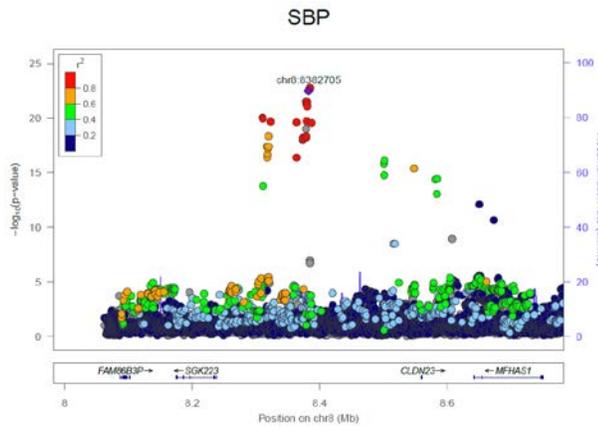
T2 - L7.A



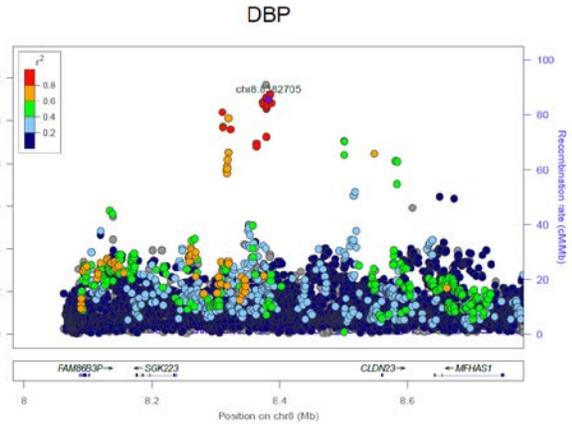
T2 - L7.B



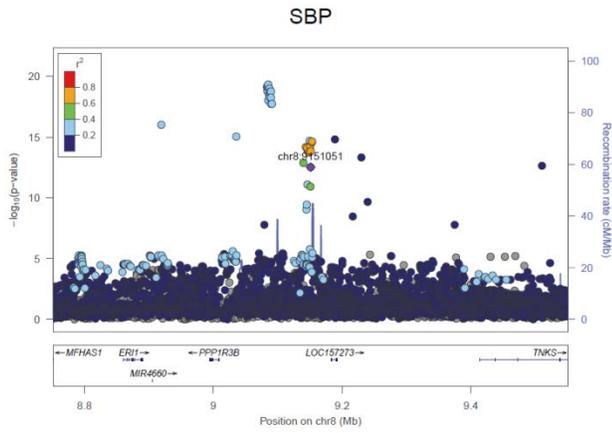
T2 – L8.A



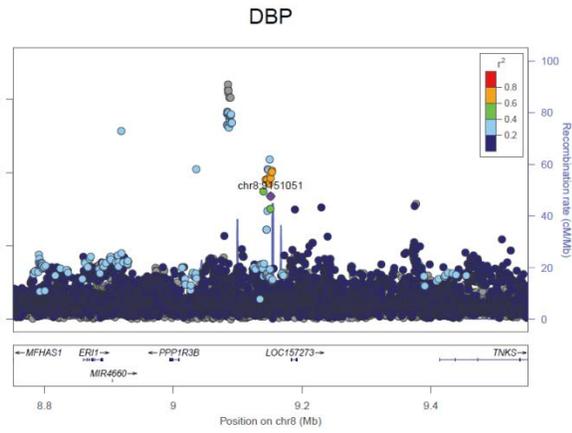
T2 – L8.B



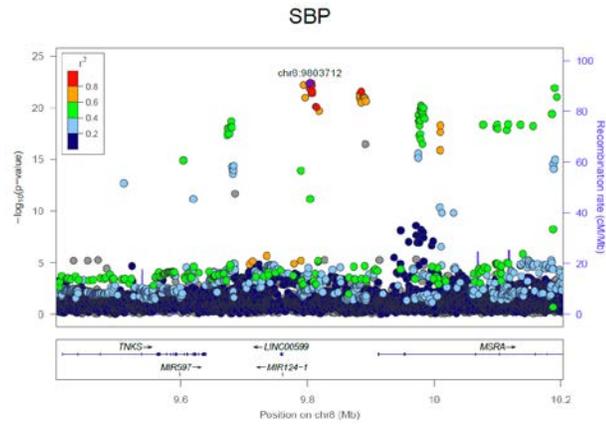
T2 – L9.A



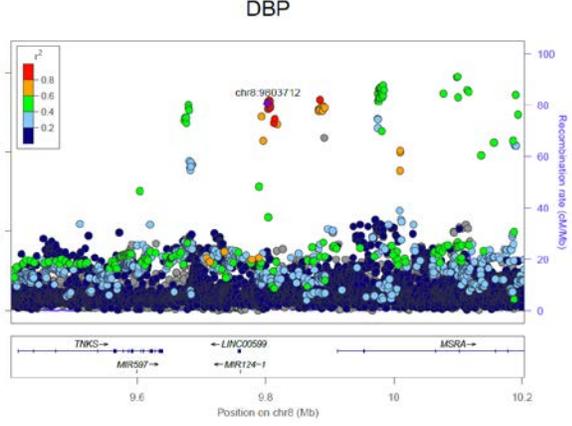
T2 – L9.B



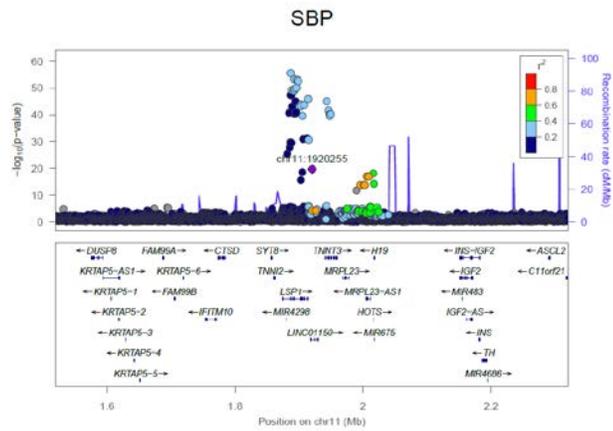
T2 – L10.A



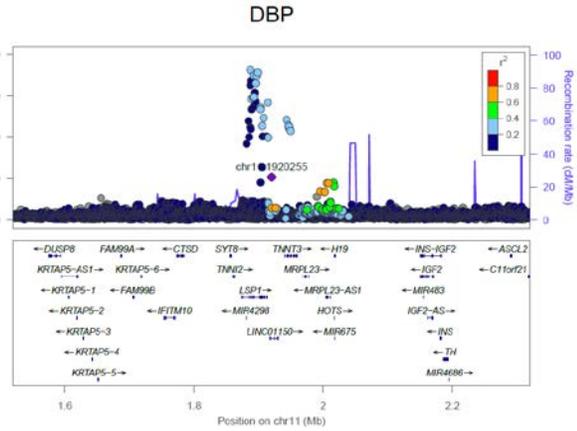
T2 – L10.B



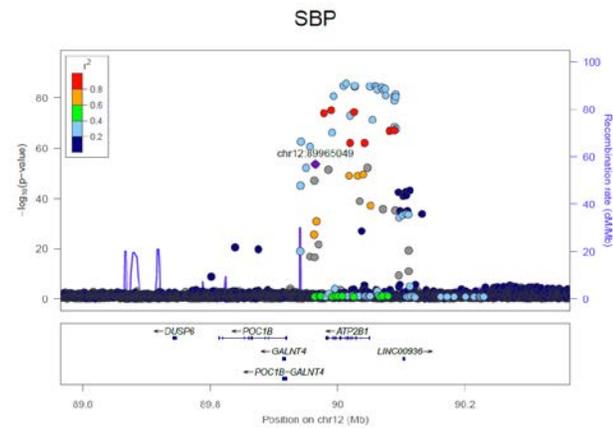
T2 - L11.A



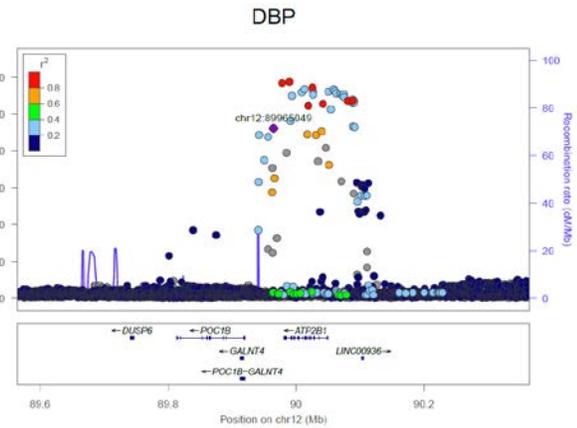
T2 - L11.B



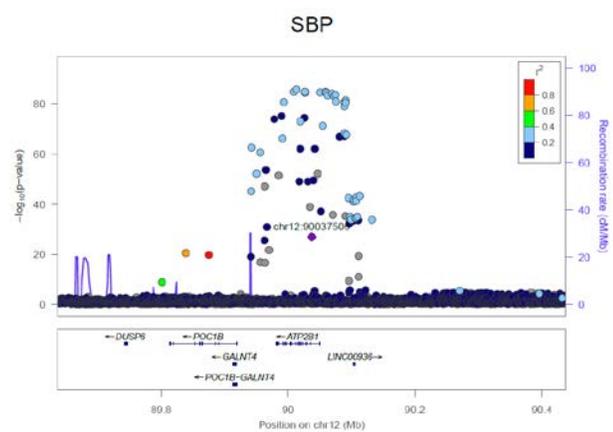
T2 - L12.A



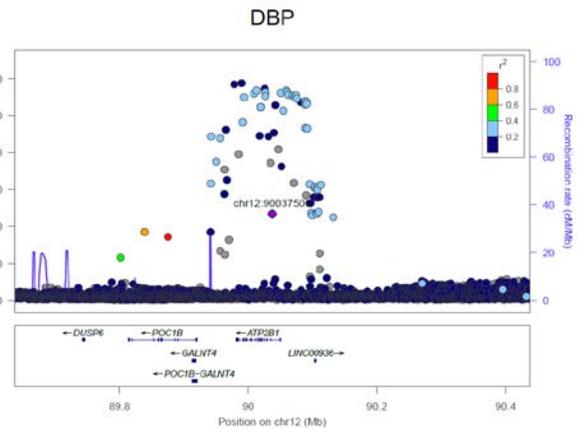
T2 - L12.B



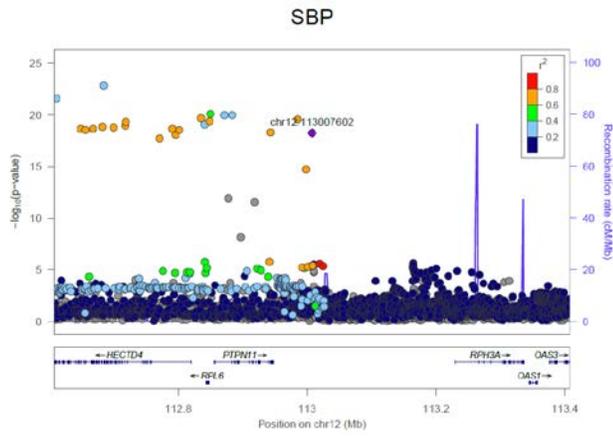
T2 - L13.A



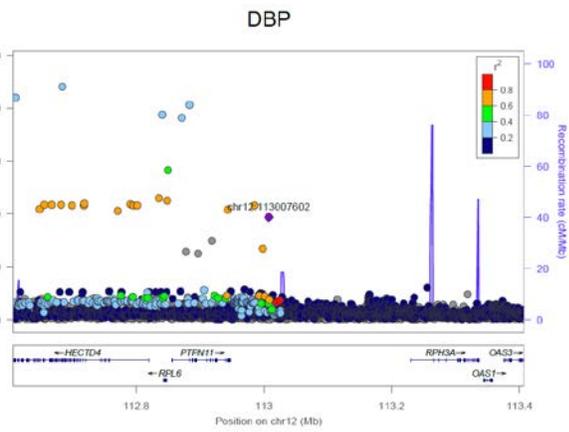
T2 - L13.B



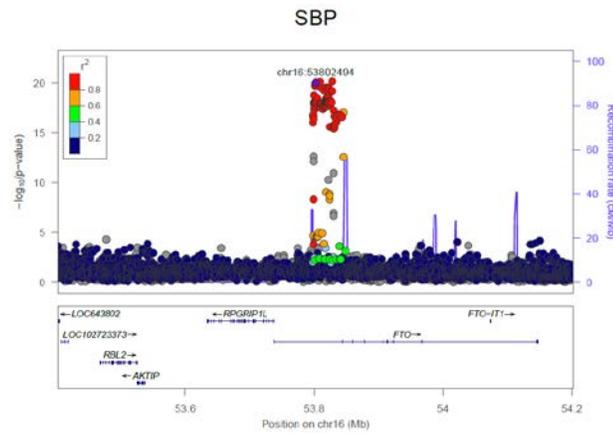
T2 - L14.A



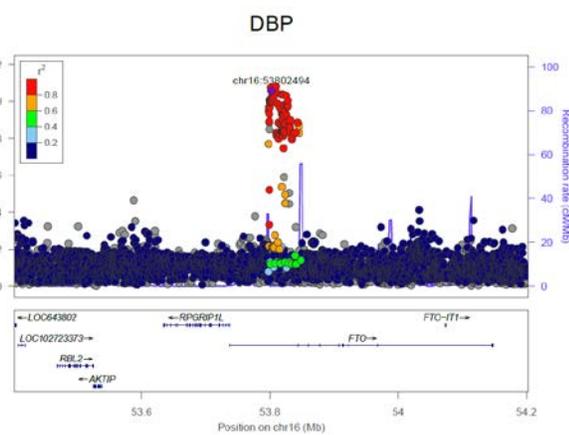
T2 - L14.B



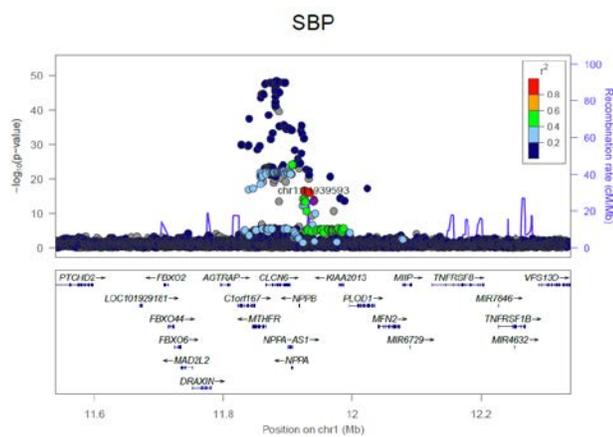
T2 - L15.A



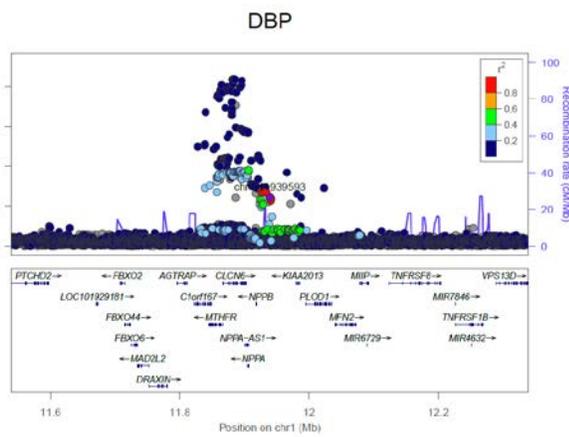
T2 - L15.B



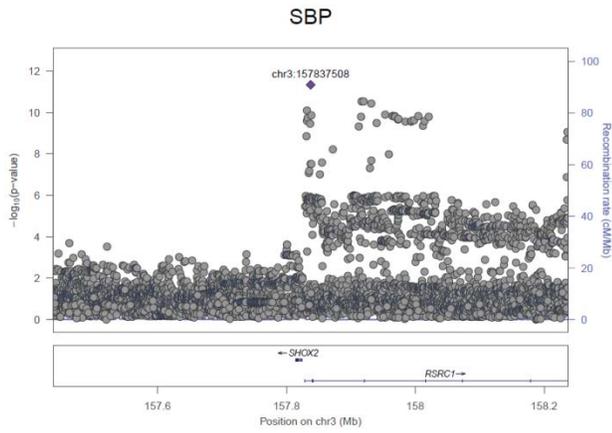
T3 - L1.A



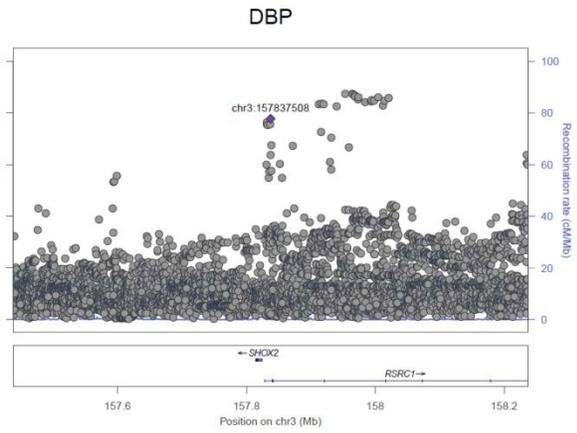
T3 - L1.B



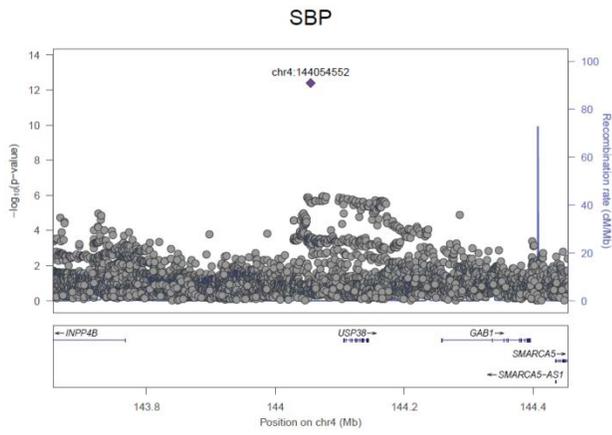
T3 – L2.A



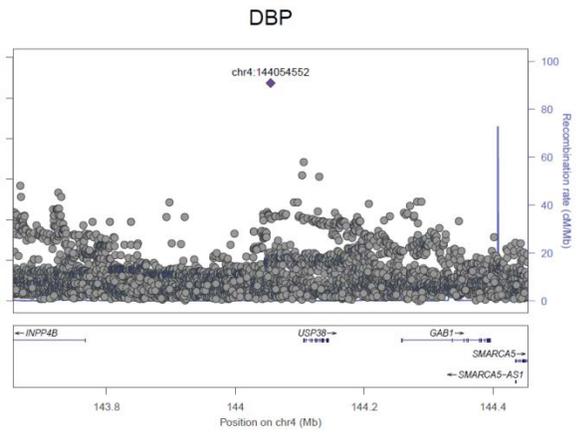
T3 – L2.B



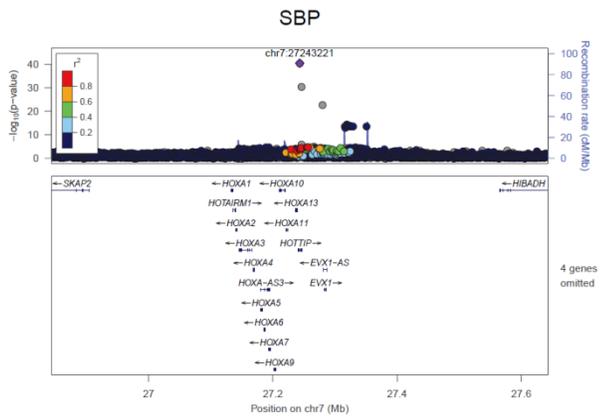
T3 – L3.A



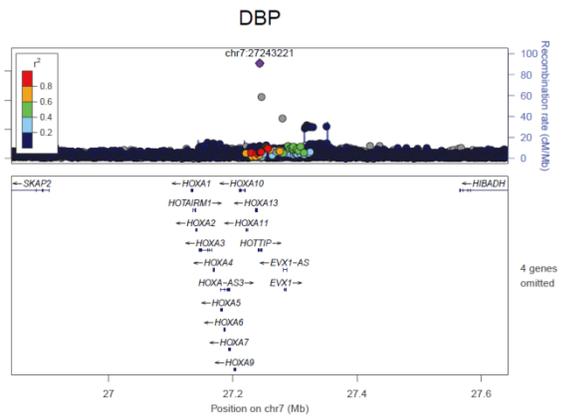
T3 – L3.B



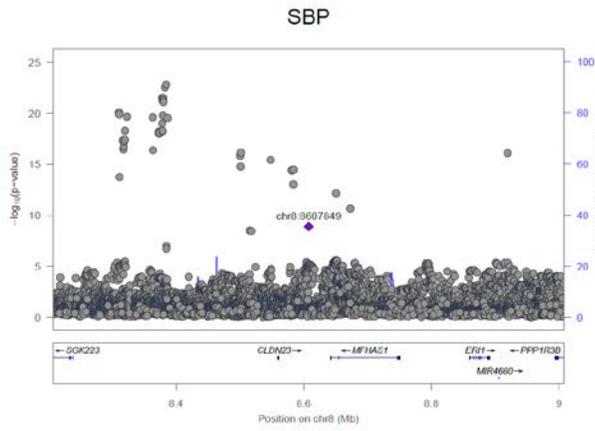
T3 – L4.A



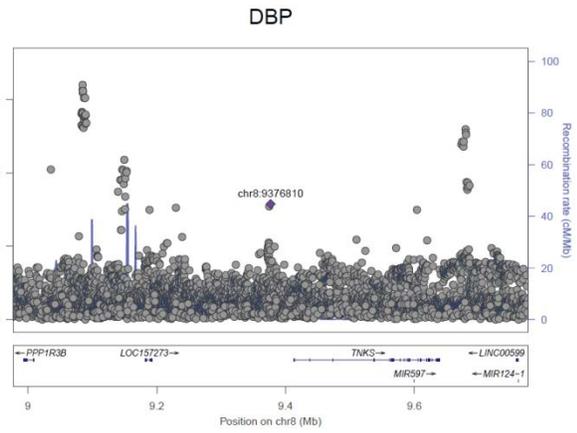
T3 – L4.B



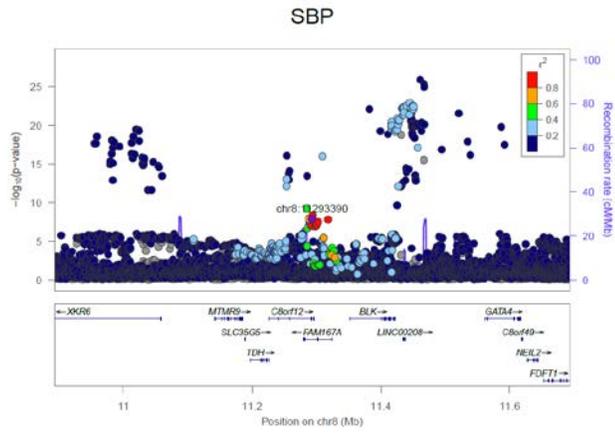
T3 - L5



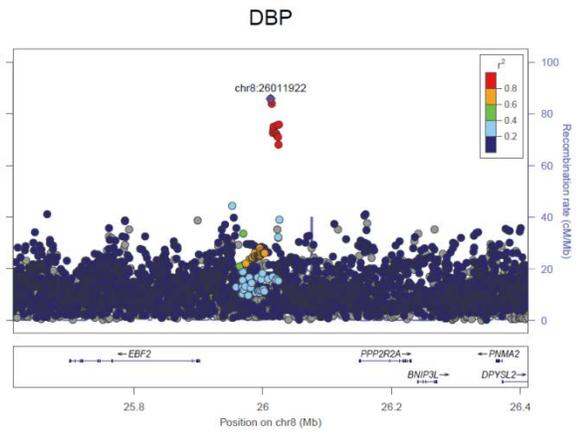
T3 - L6



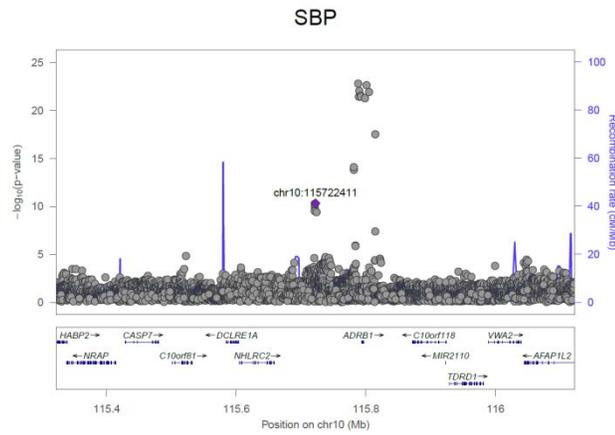
T3 - L7



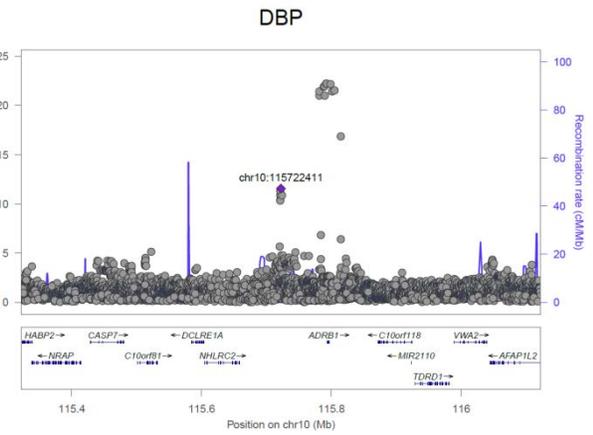
T3 - L8



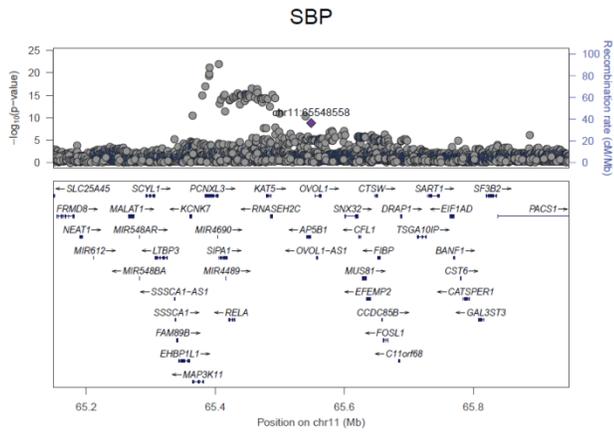
T3 - L9.A



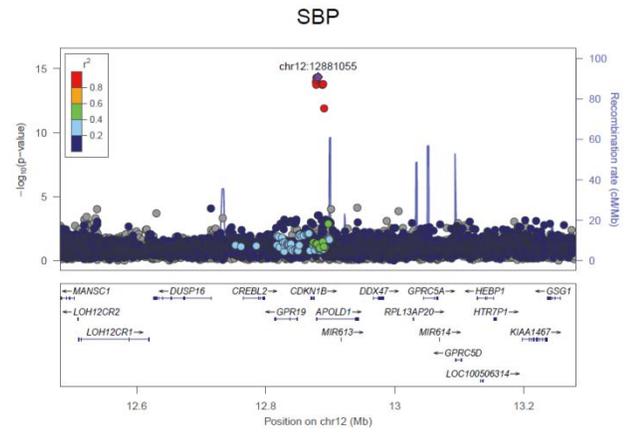
T3 - L9.B



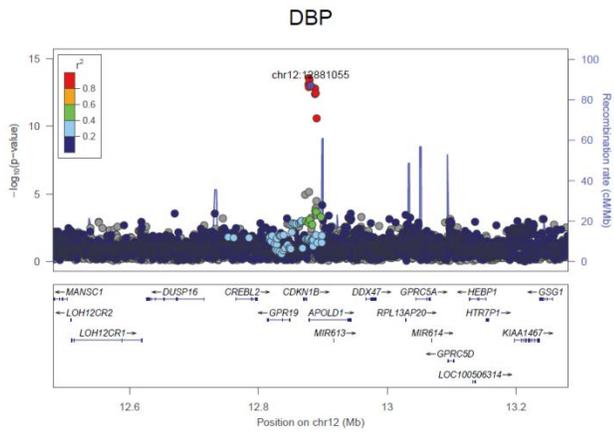
T3 - L10



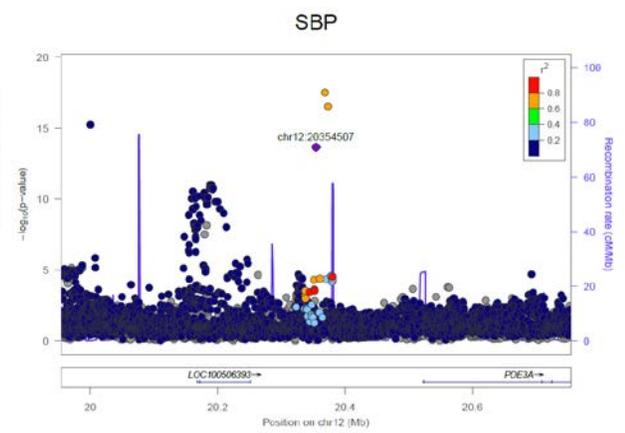
T3 - L11.A



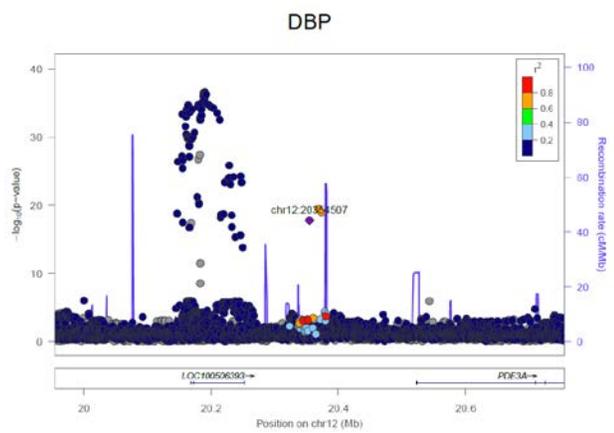
T3 - L11.B



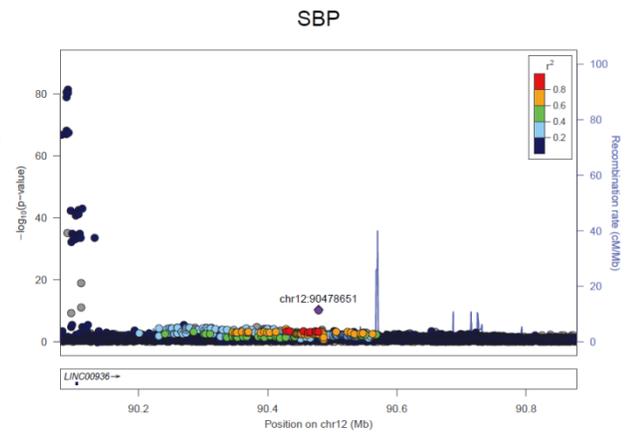
T3 - L12.A



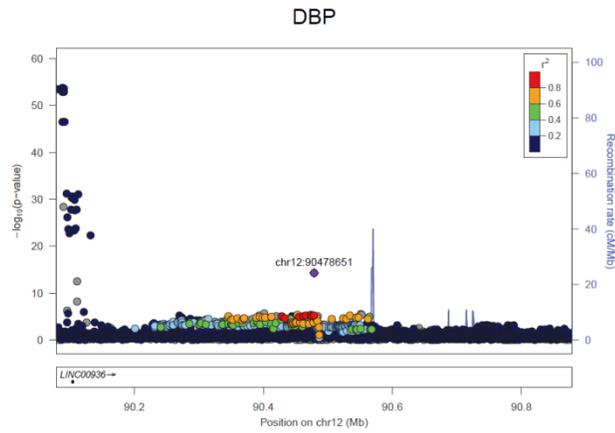
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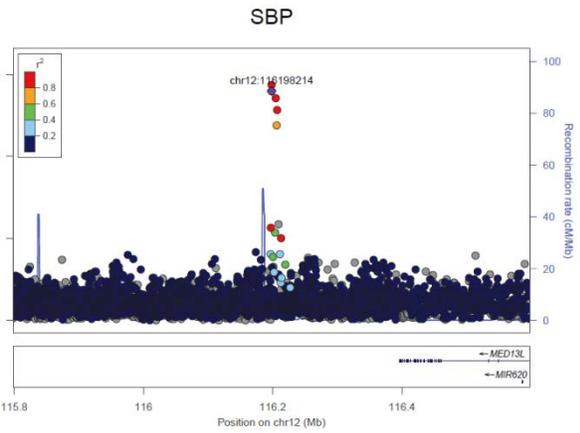
T3 - L13.A



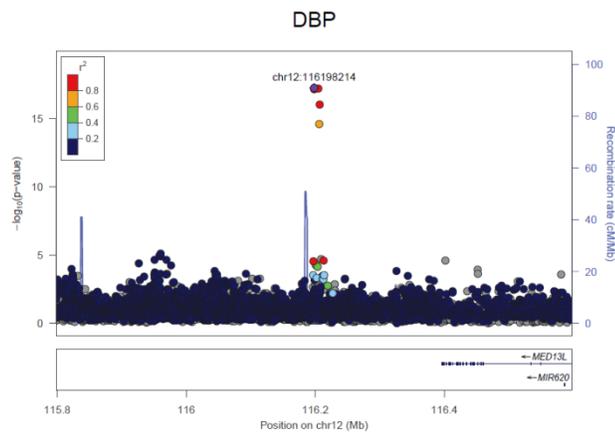
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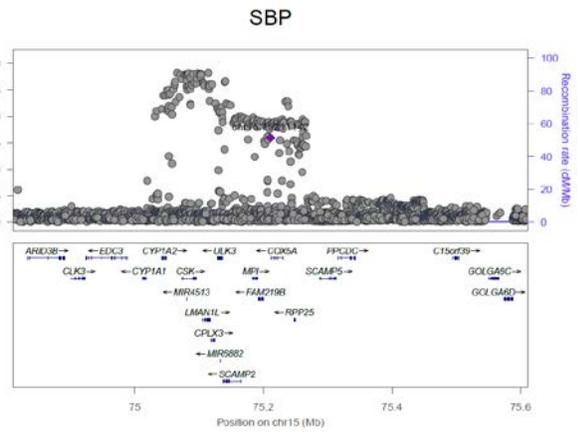
T3 - L14.A



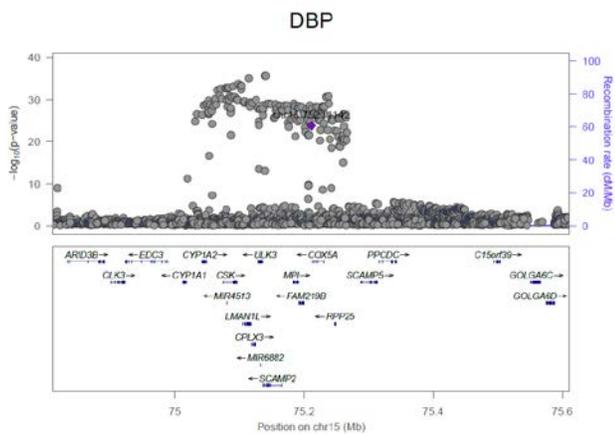
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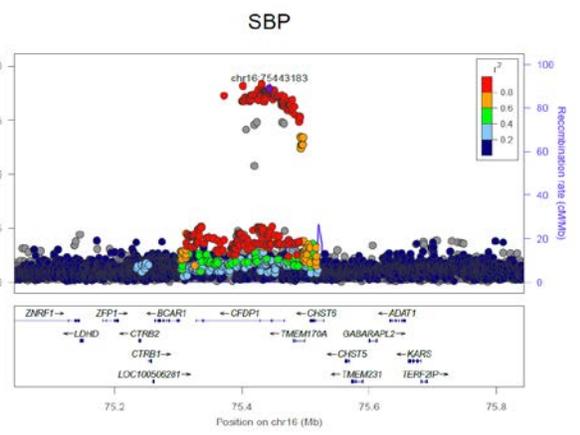
T3 - L15.A



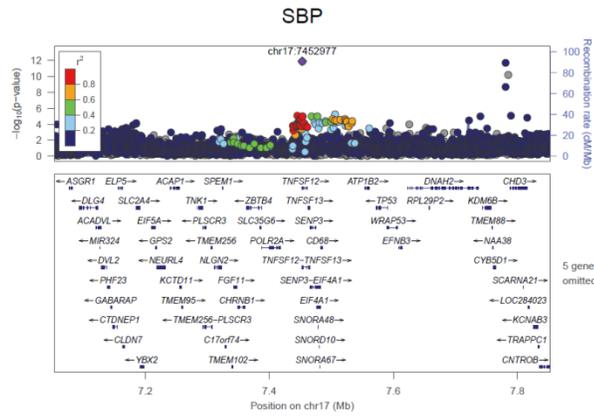
T3 - L15.B



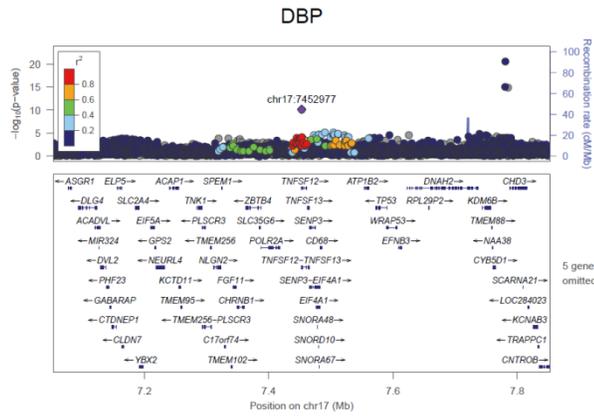
T3 - L16



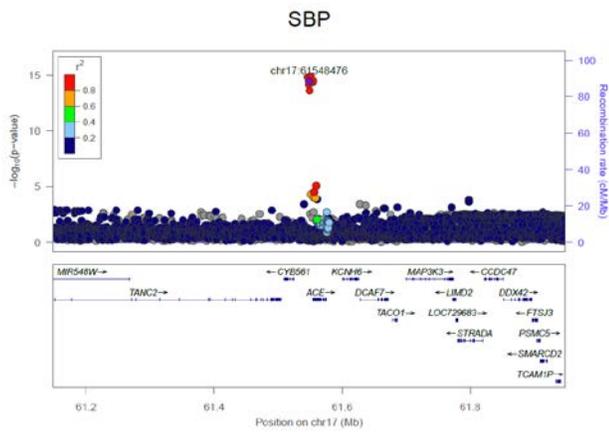
T3 – L17.A



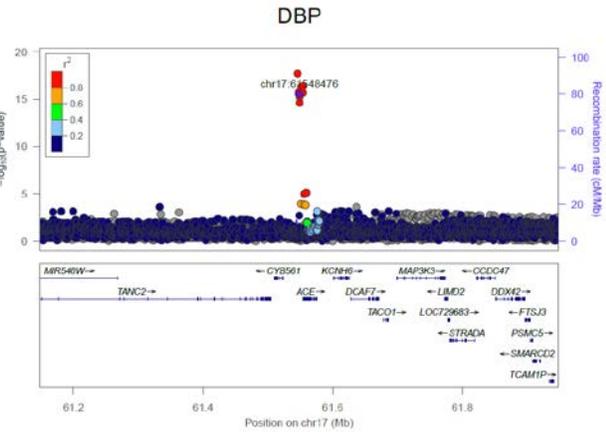
T3 – L17.B



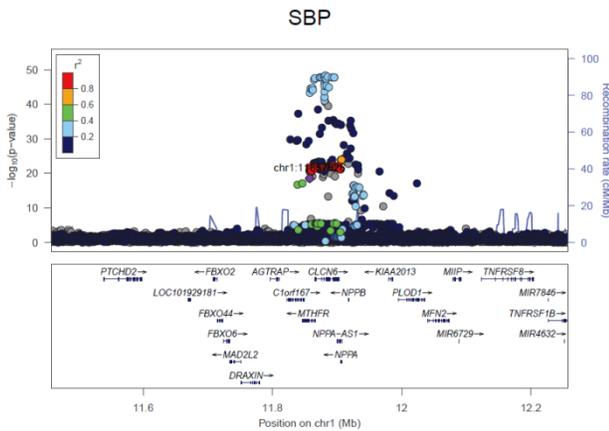
T3 – L18.A



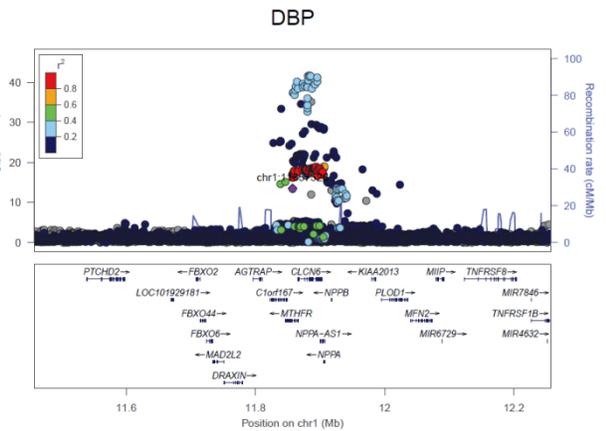
T3 – L18.B



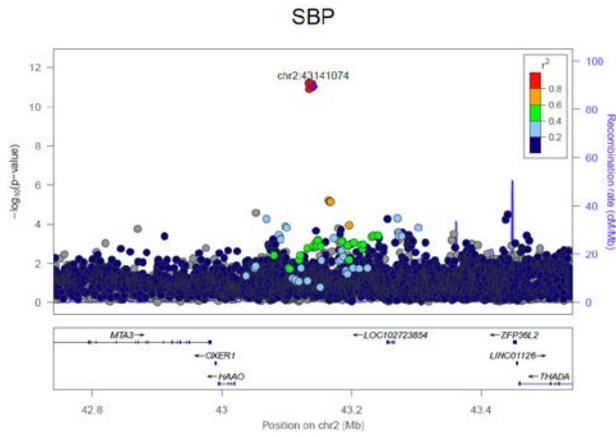
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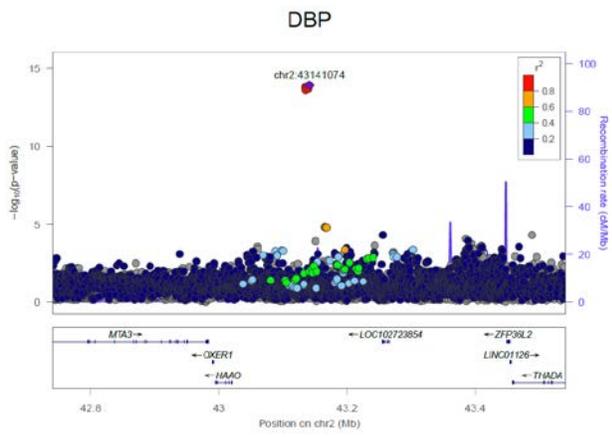
T4 – L1.B



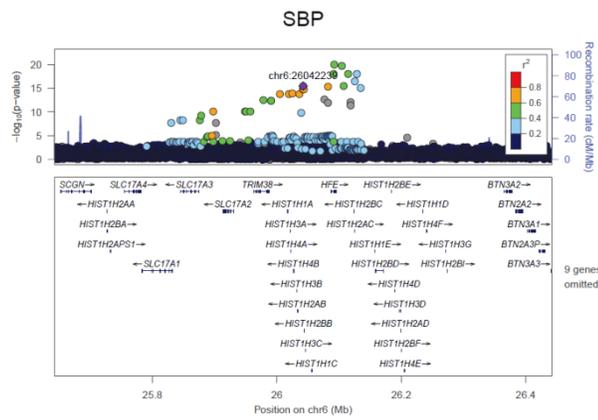
T4 - L2.A



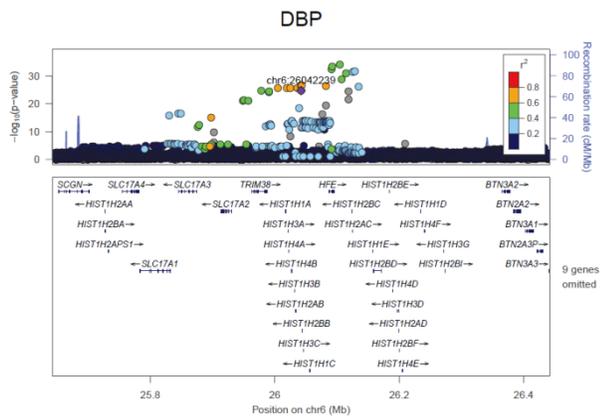
T4 - L2.B



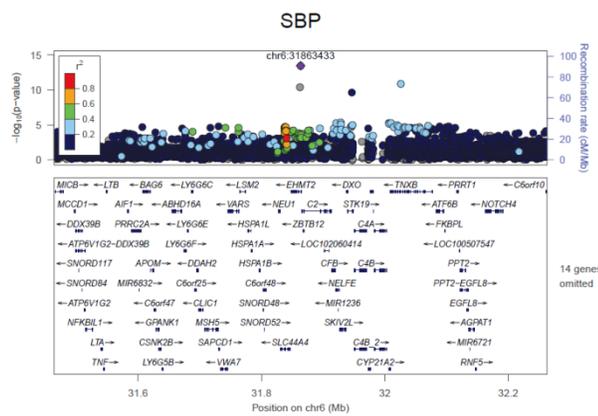
T4 - L3.A



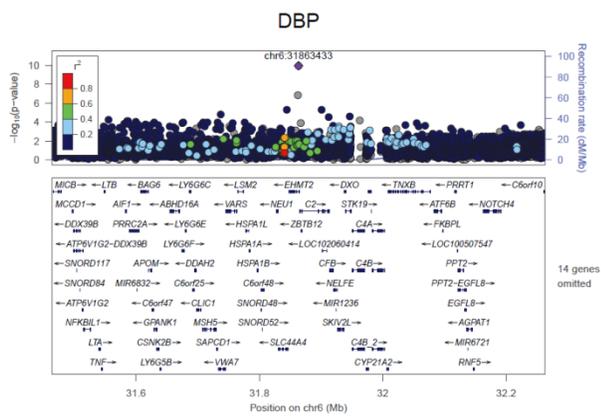
T4 - L3.B



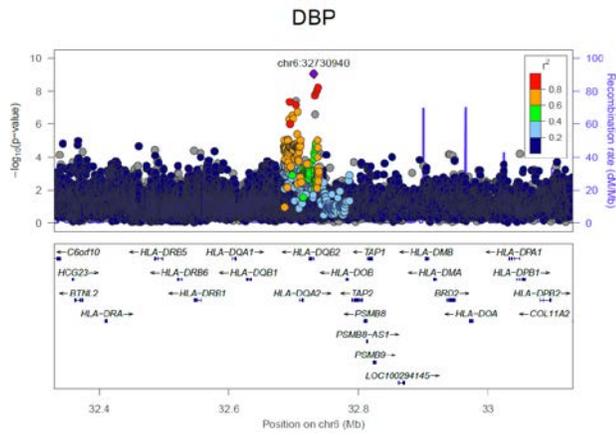
T4 - L4.A



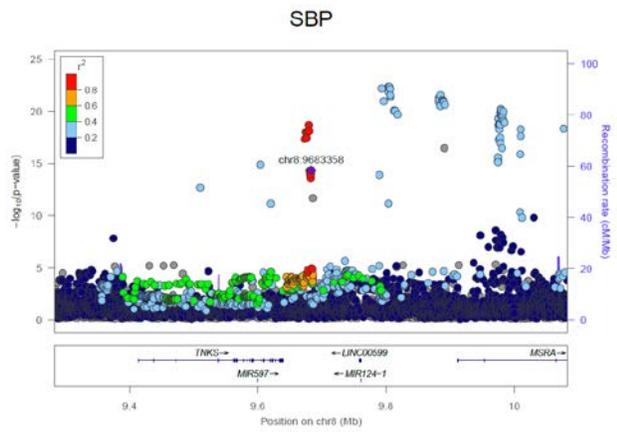
T4 - L4.B



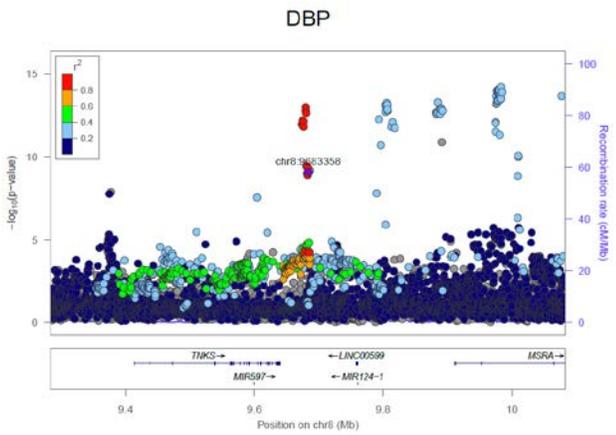
T4 – L5



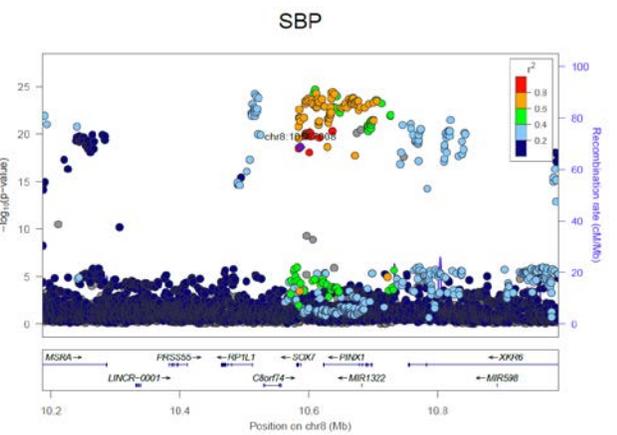
T4 – L6.A



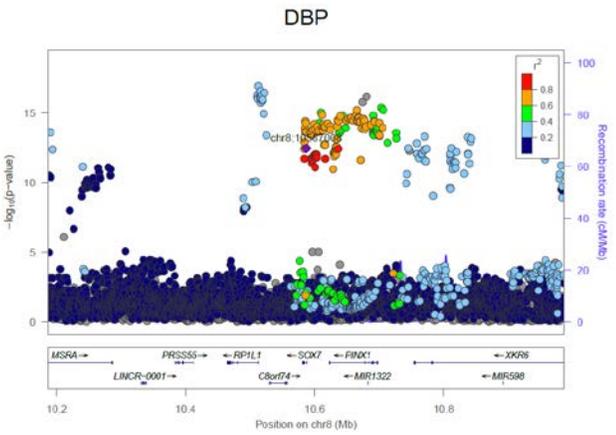
T4 – L6.B



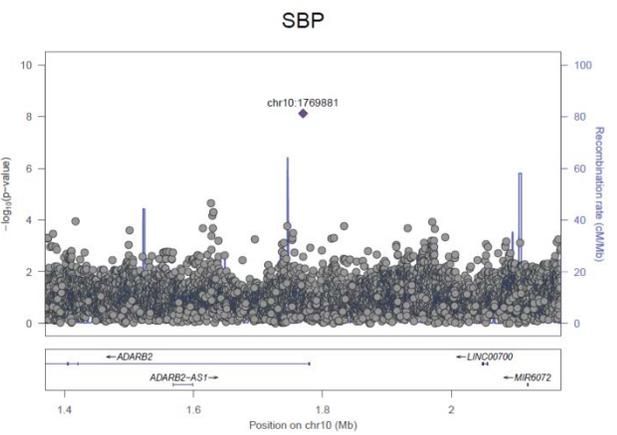
T4 – L7.A



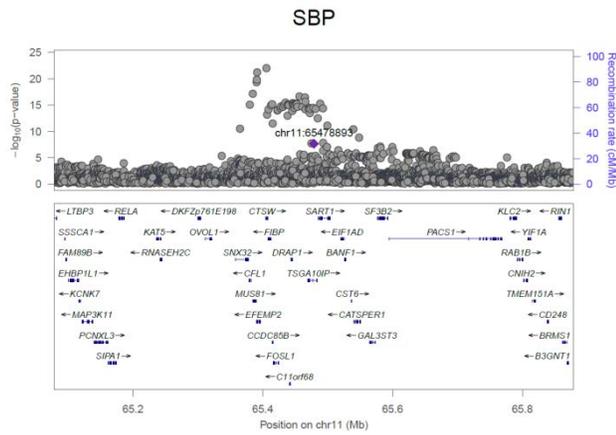
T4 – L7.B



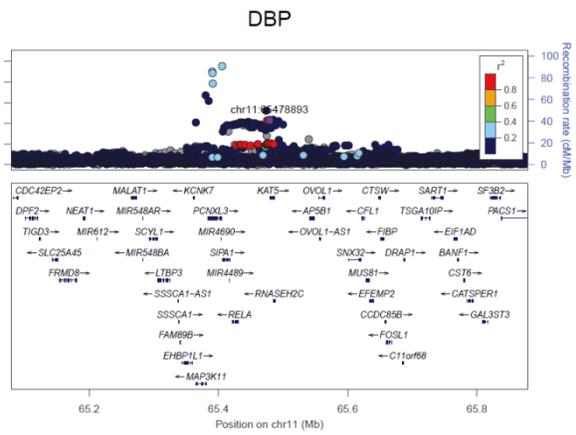
T4 – L8



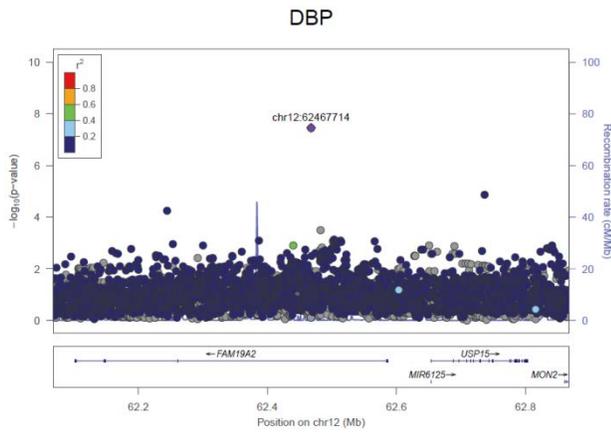
T4 – L8



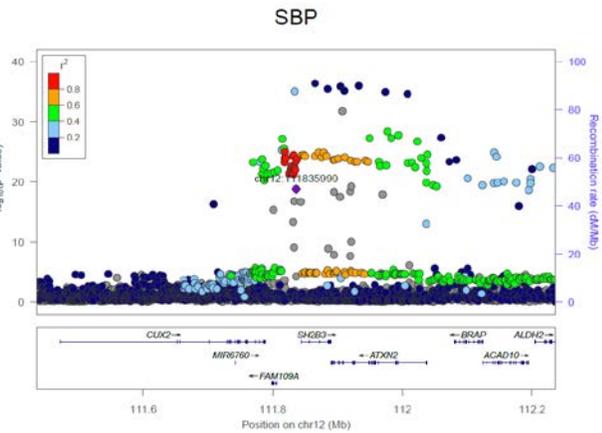
T4 – L9



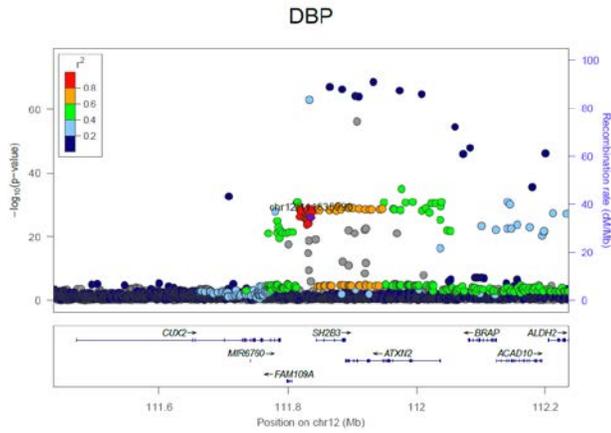
T4 – L10



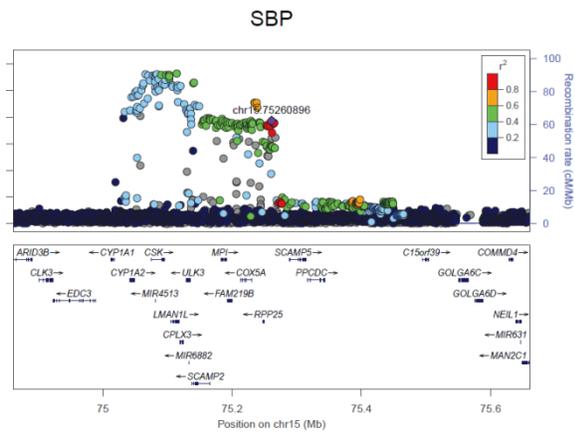
T4 – L11.A



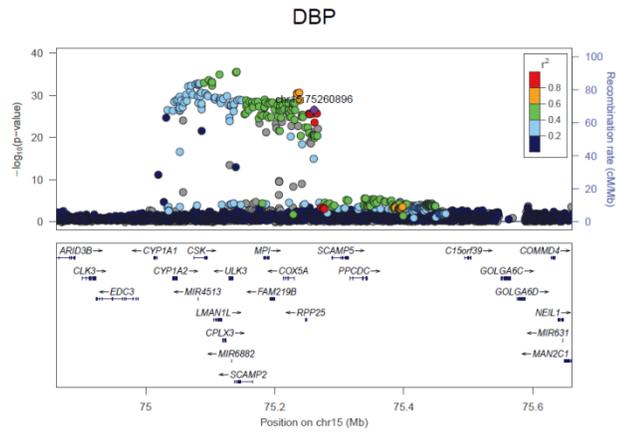
T4 – L11.B



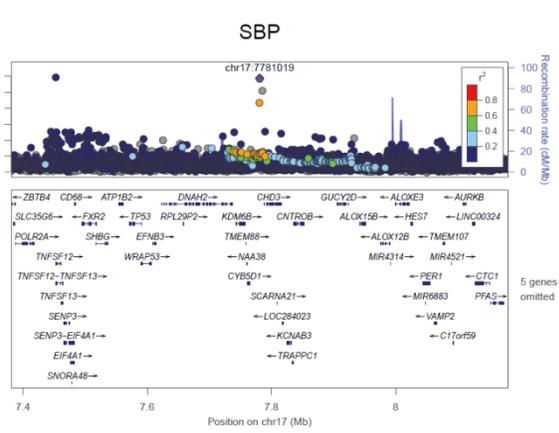
T4 – L12.A



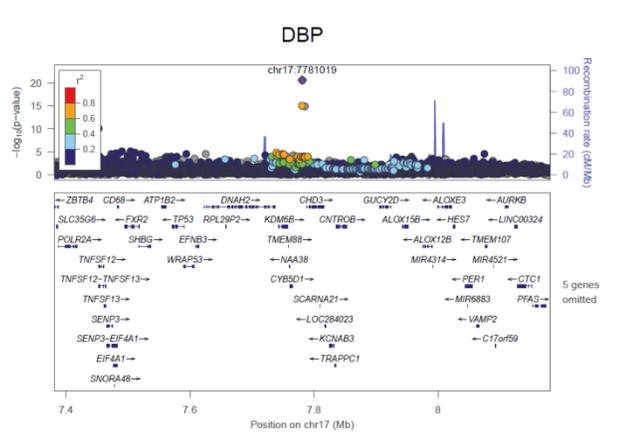
T4 - L12.B



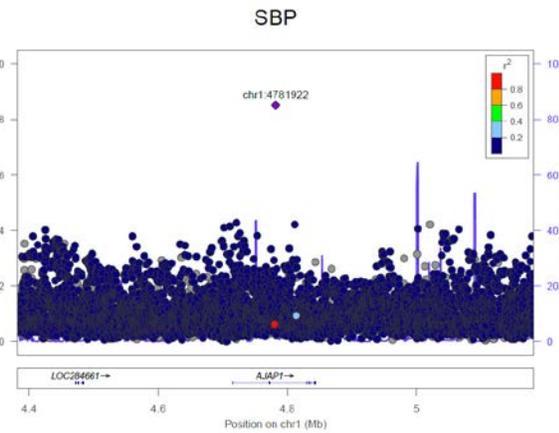
T4 - L13.A



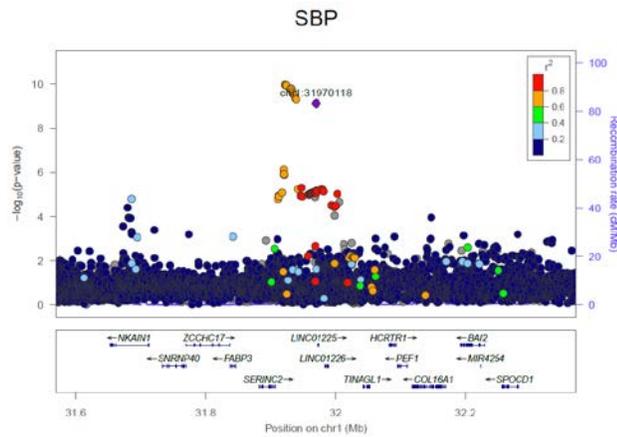
T4 - L13.B



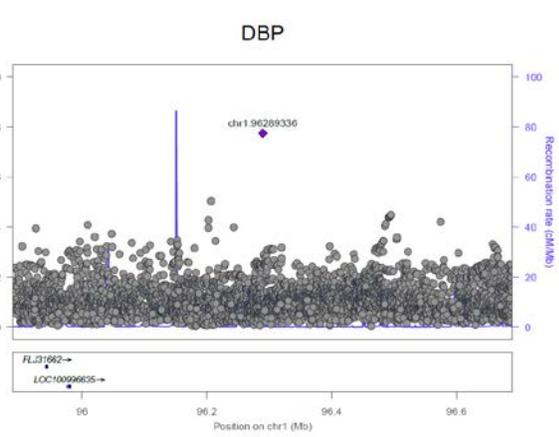
T5 - L1



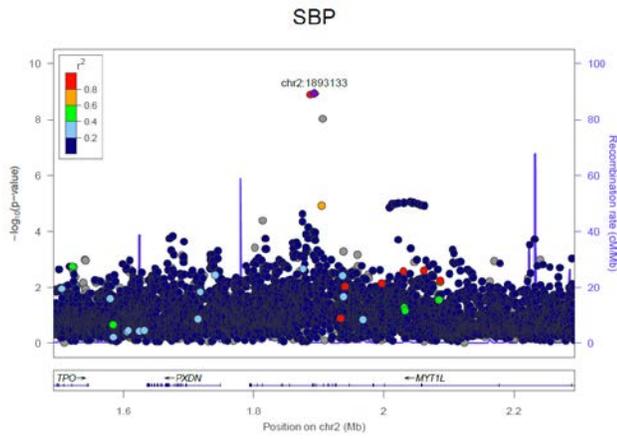
T5 - L2



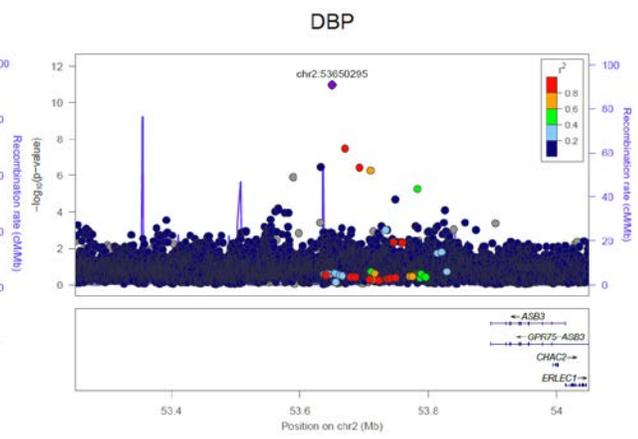
T5 - L3



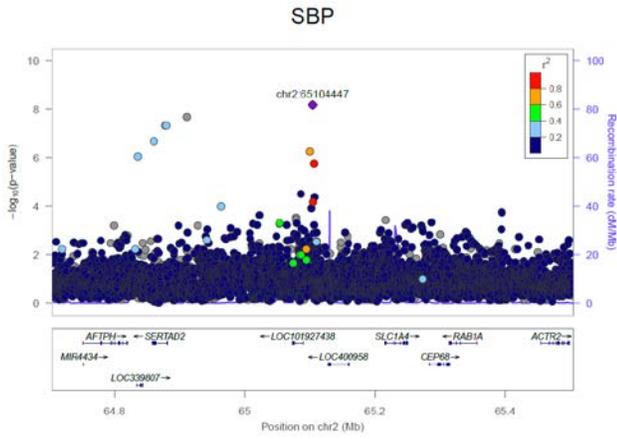
T5 - L4



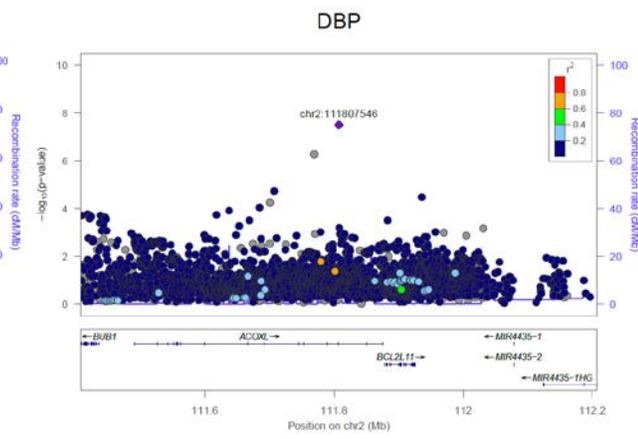
T5 - L5



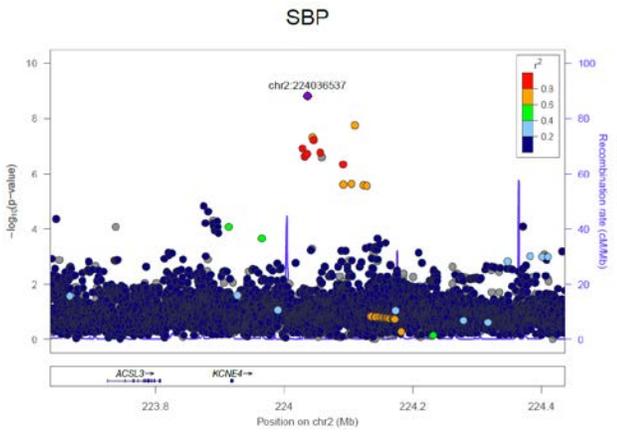
T5 - L6



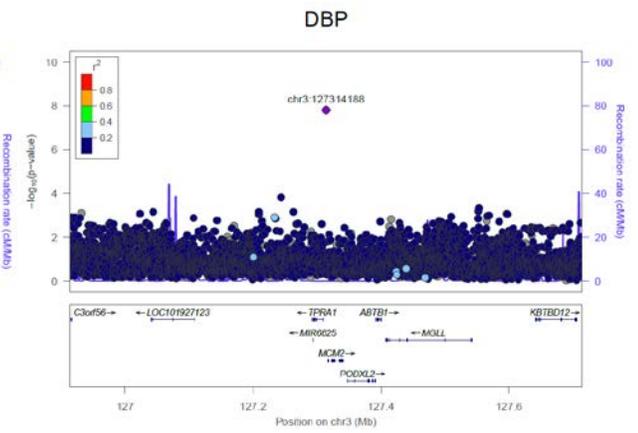
T5 - L7



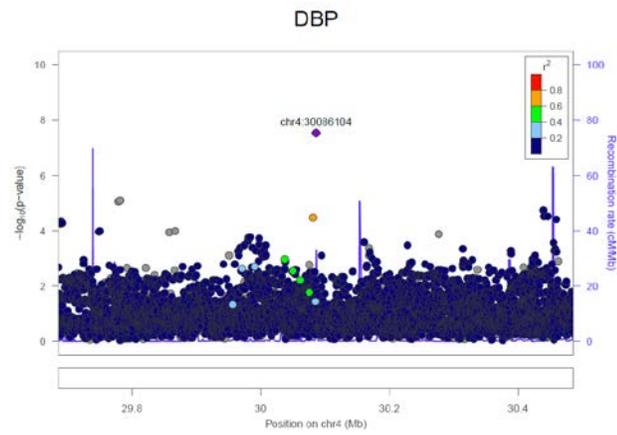
T5 - L8



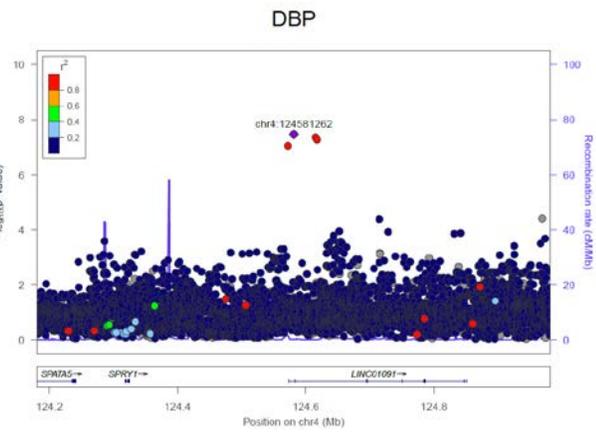
T5 - L9



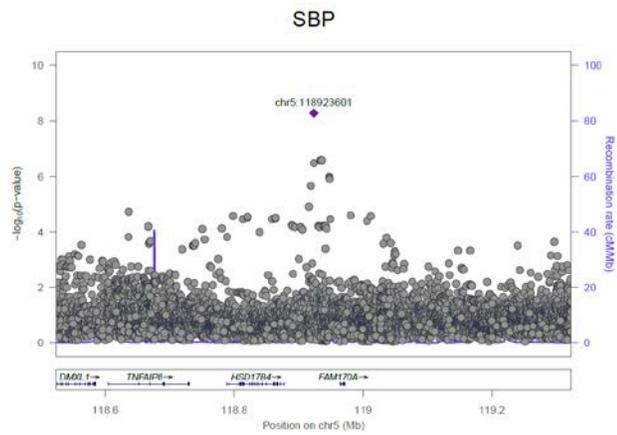
T5 - L10



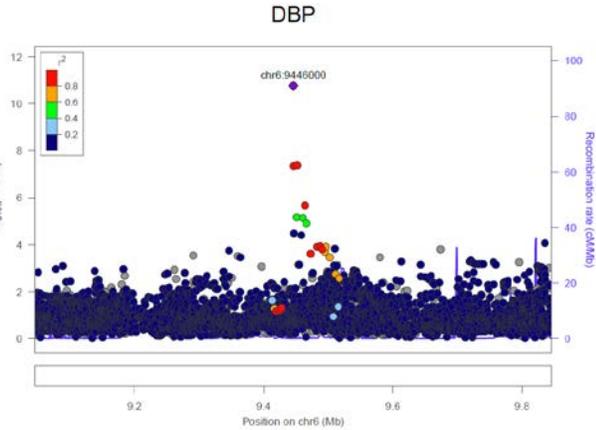
T5 - L11



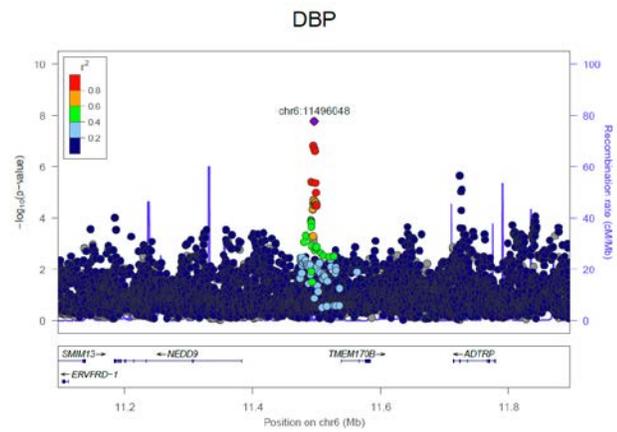
T5 - L12



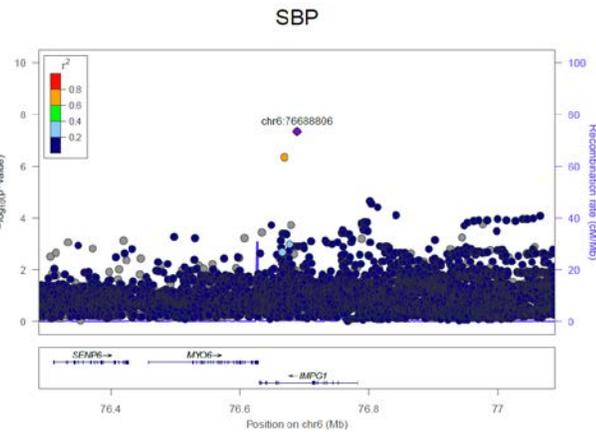
T5 - L13



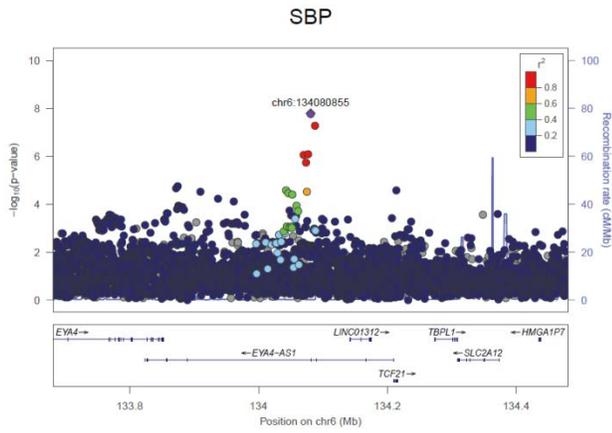
T5 - L14



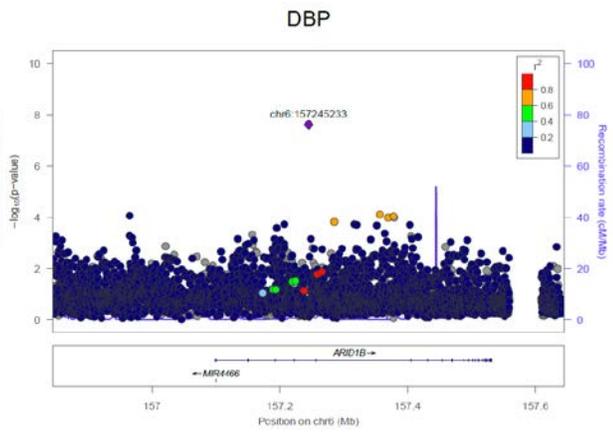
T5 - L15



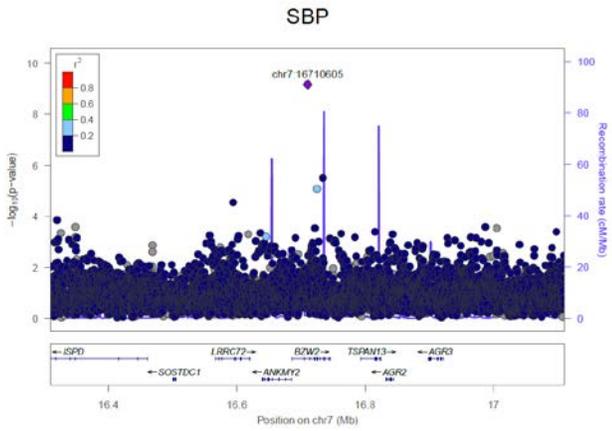
T5 - L16



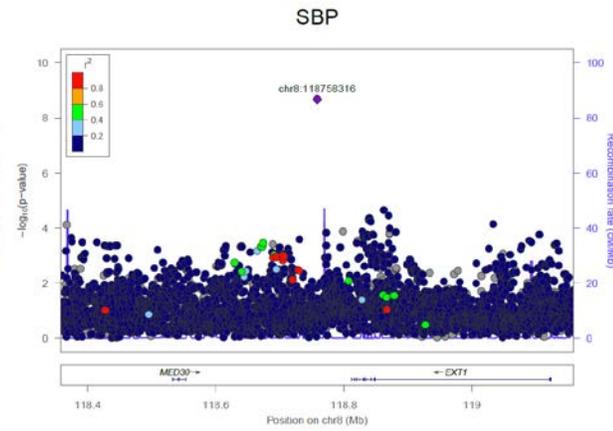
T5 - L17



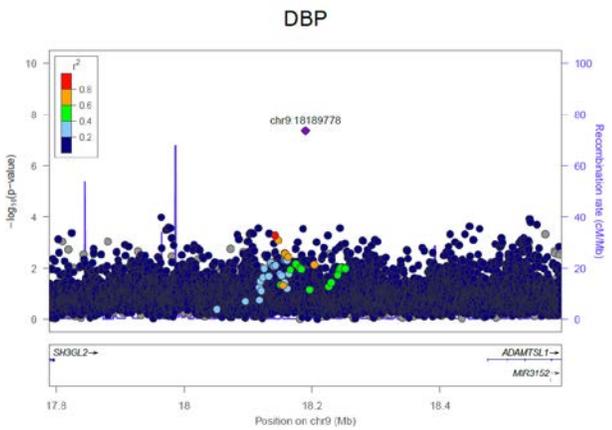
T5 - L18



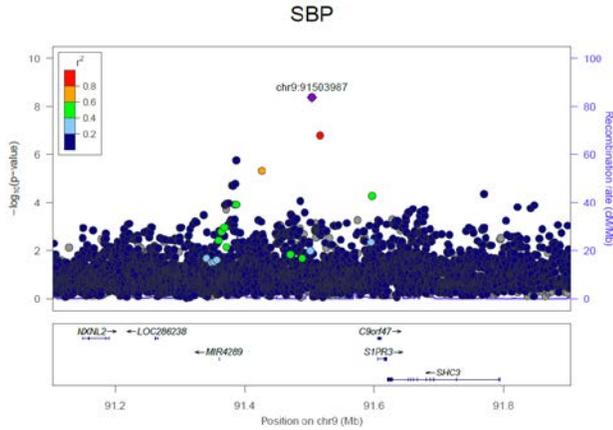
T5 - L19



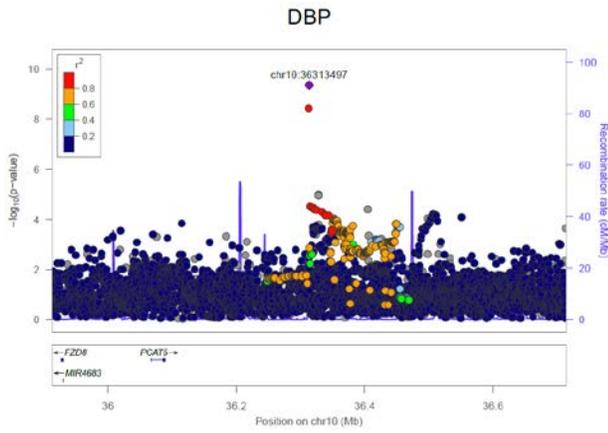
T5 - L20



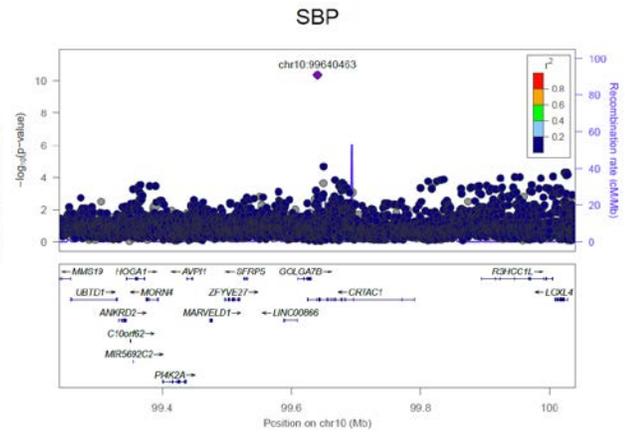
T5 - L21



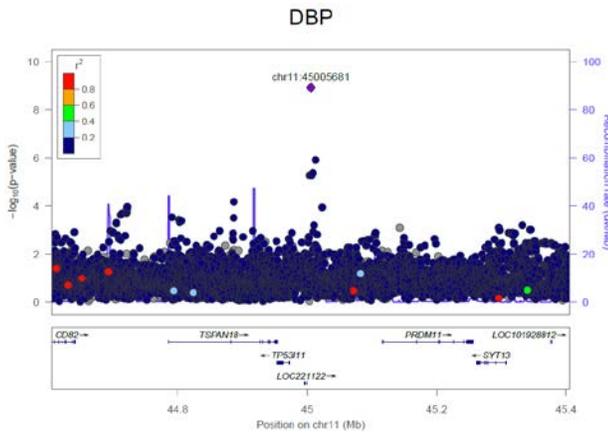
T5 - L22



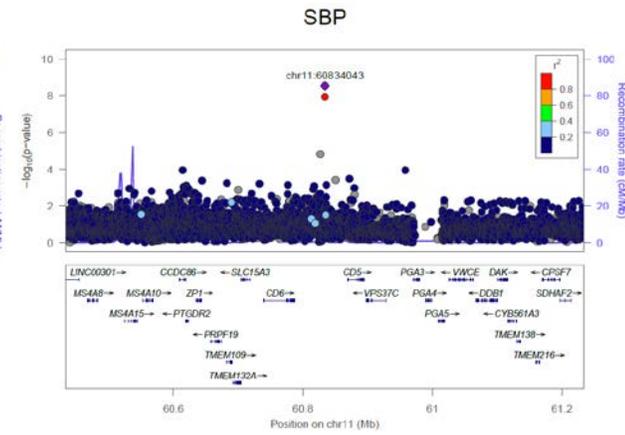
T5 - L23



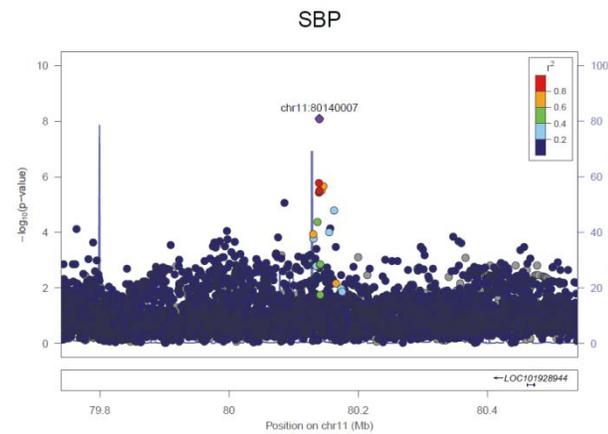
T5 - L24



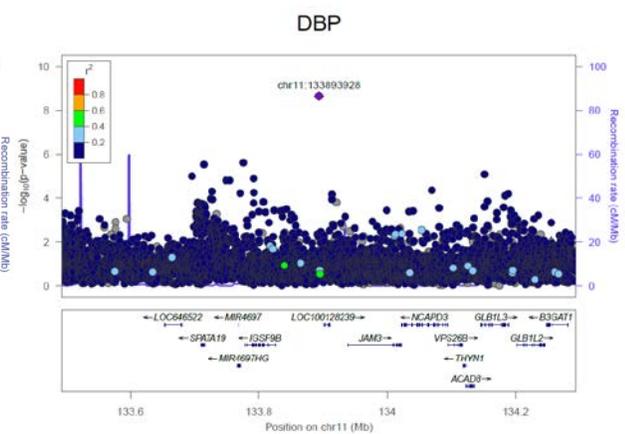
T5 - L25



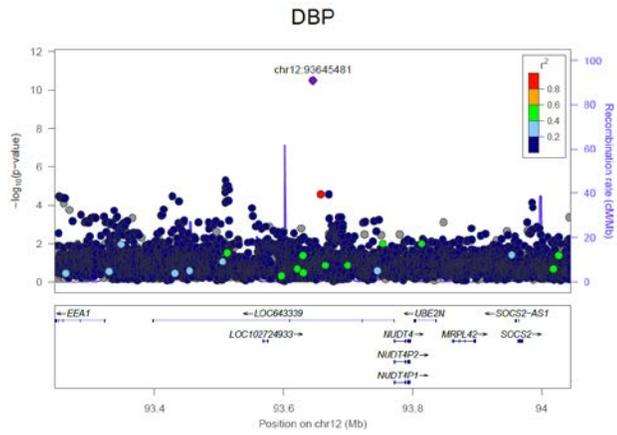
T5 - L26



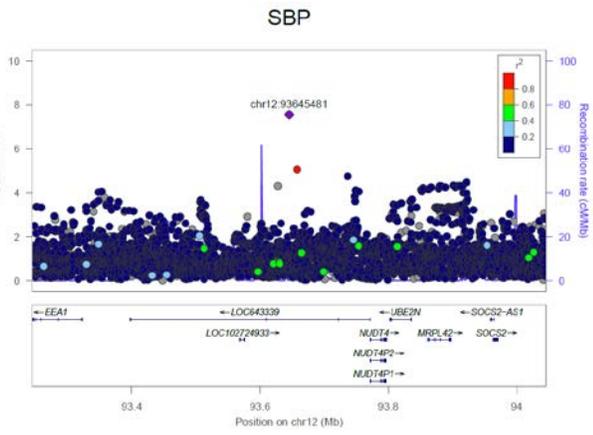
T5 - L27



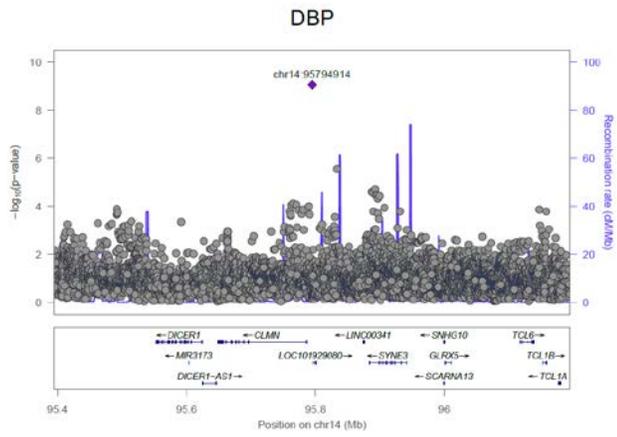
T5 - L28.A



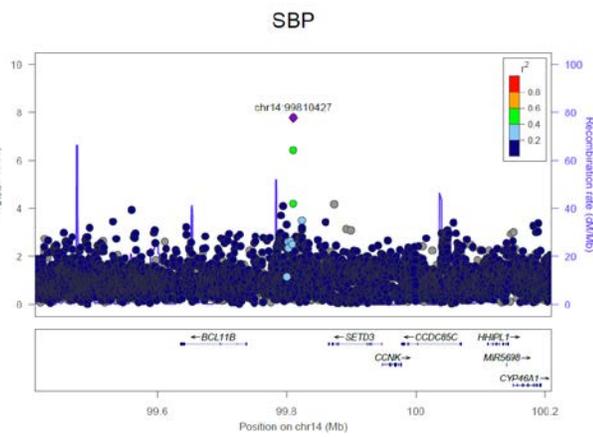
T5 - L28.B



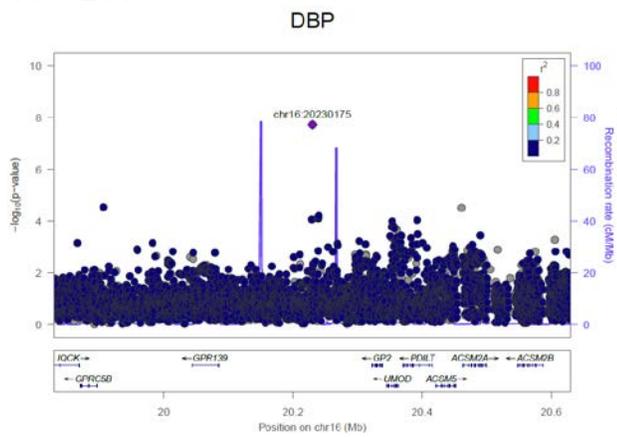
T5 - L29



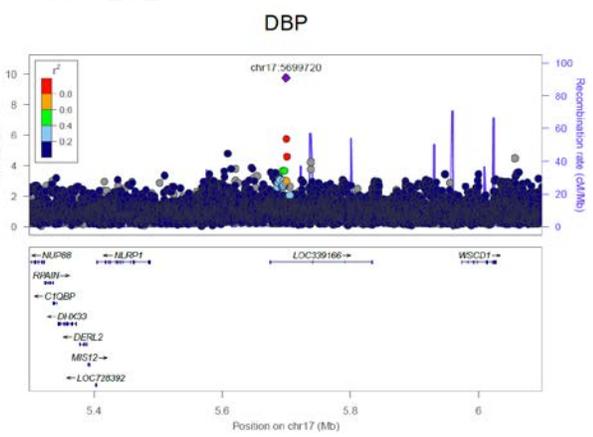
T5 - L30



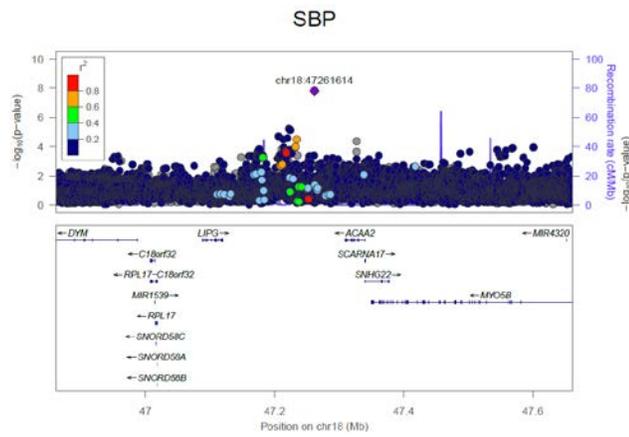
T5 - L31



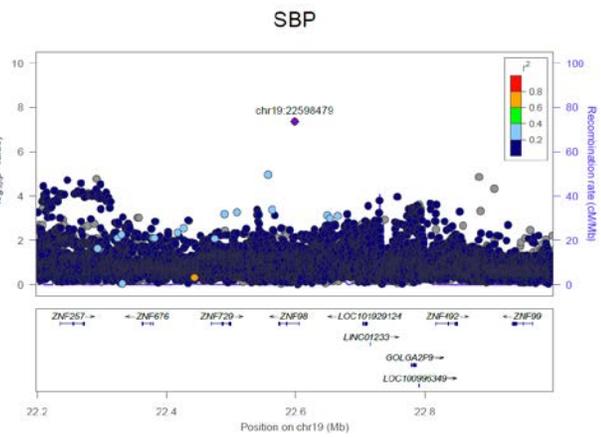
T5 - L32



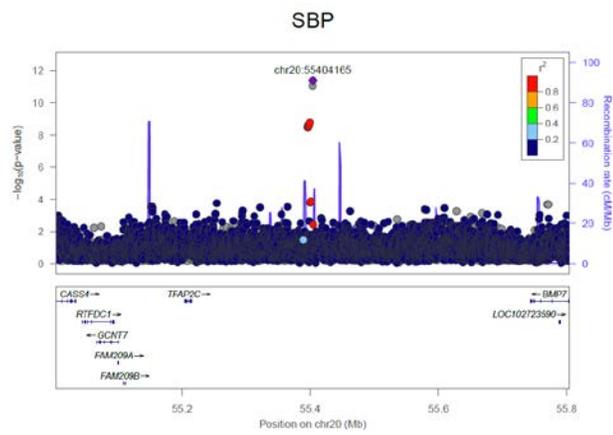
T5 - L33



T5 - L34



T5 - L35



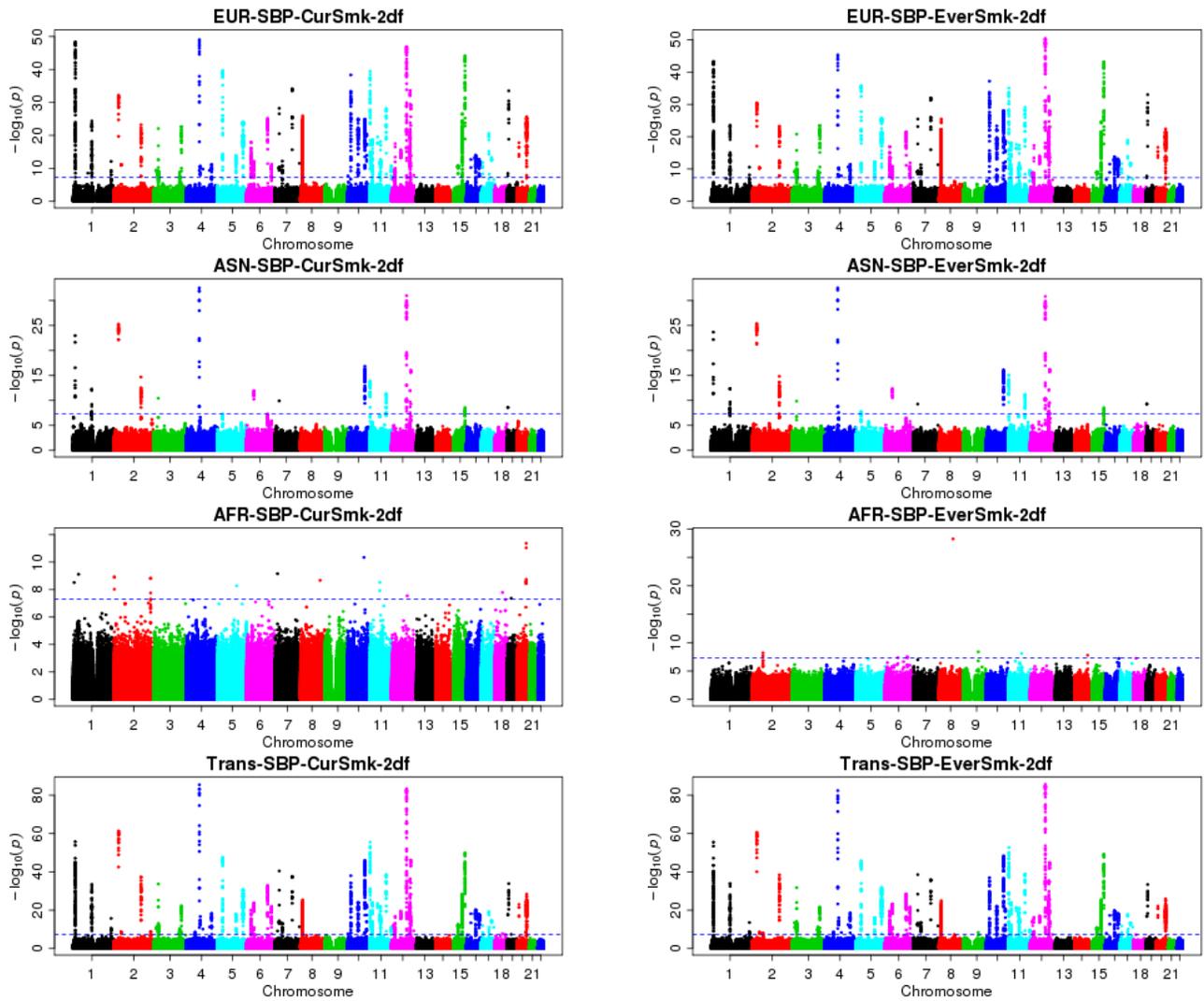


Figure S5: Manhattan plots of SBP using the 2 DF joint test.

The $-\log_{10}(p)$ of each SNP was plotted at the chromosomal location of each variant. The p-values are based on the combined discovery and replication analysis for the select 4,459 variants and the discovery analysis for the remaining 18.8 million variants.

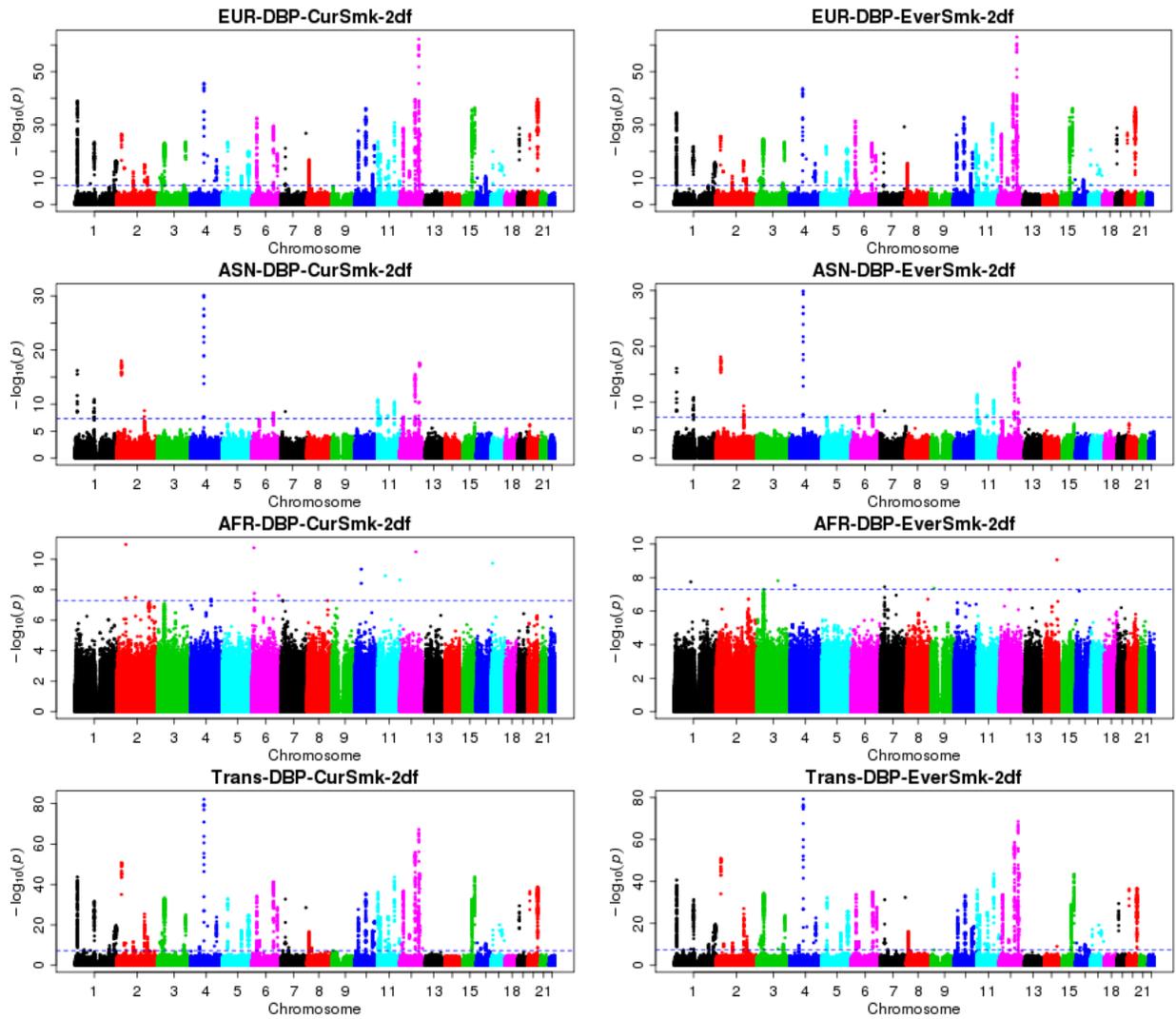


Figure S6: Manhattan plots of DBP using the 2 DF joint test.

The $-\log_{10}(p)$ of each SNP was plotted at the chromosomal location of each variant. The p-values are based on the combined discovery and replication analysis for the select 4,459 variants and the discovery analysis for the remaining 18.8 million variants.

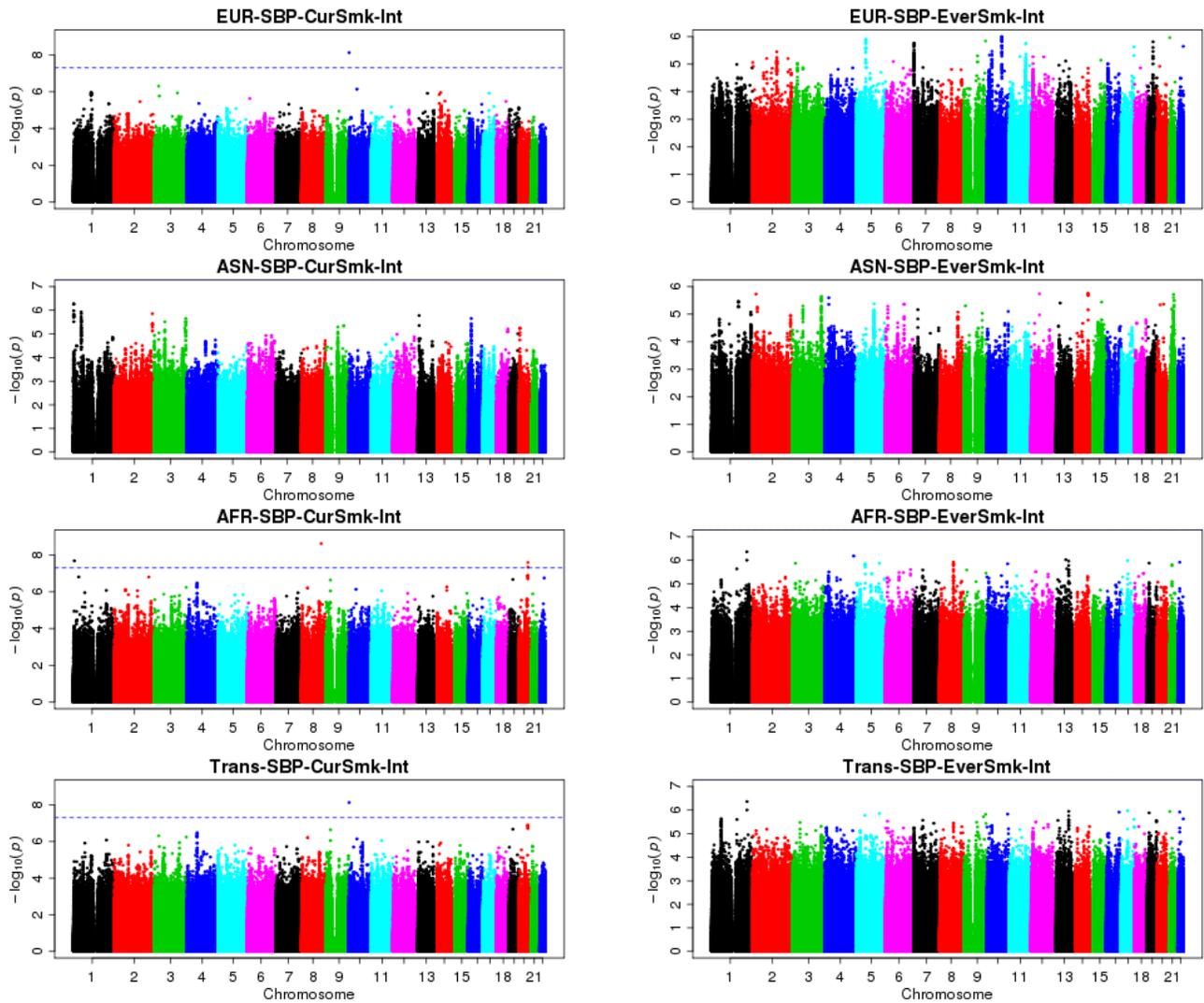


Figure S7: Manhattan plots of SBP using the 1 DF interaction test.

The $-\log_{10}(p)$ of each SNP was plotted at the chromosomal location of each variant. The p-values are based on the combined discovery and replication analysis for the select 4,459 variants and the discovery analysis for the remaining 18.8 million variants.

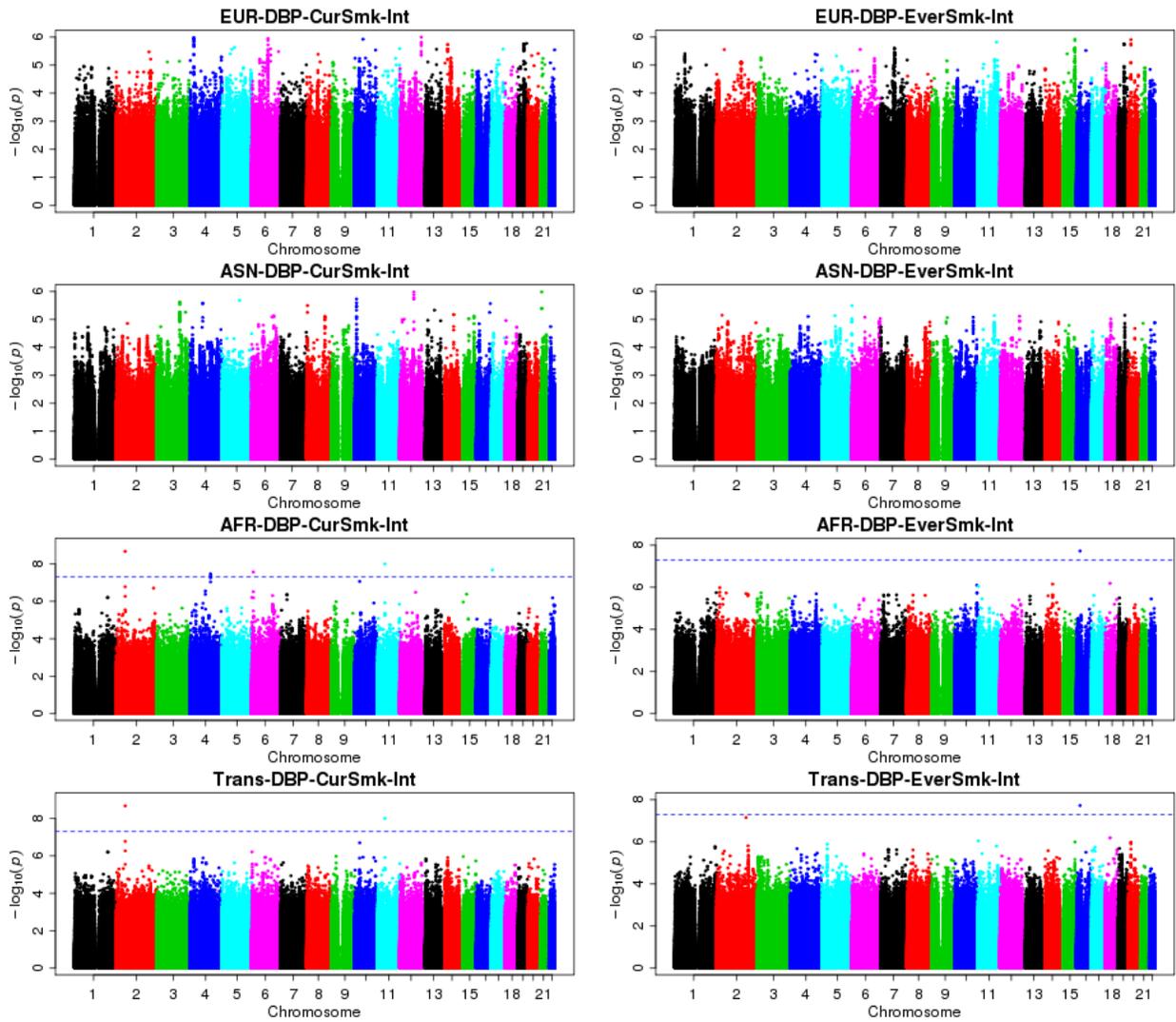
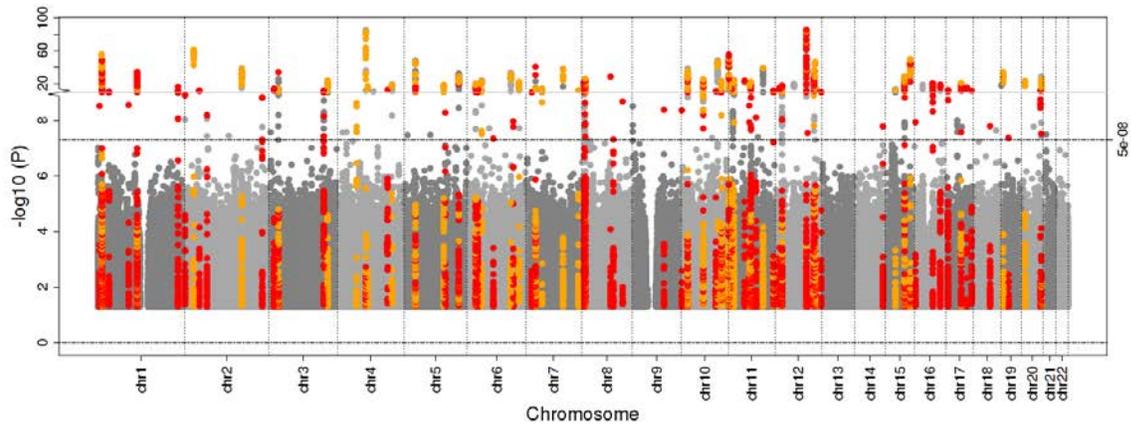


Figure S8: Manhattan plots of DBP using the 1 DF interaction test.

The $-\log_{10}(p)$ of each SNP was plotted at the chromosomal location of each variant. The p-values are based on the combined discovery and replication analysis for the select 4,459 variants and the discovery analysis for the remaining 18.8 million variants.

A SBP



B DBP

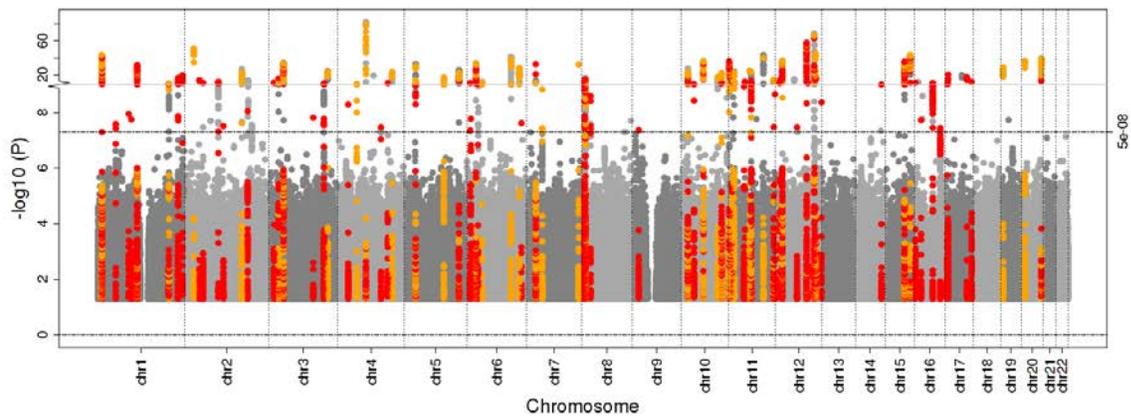


Figure S9. Manhattan plots for SBP and DBP using the 2 DF joint test.

The orange points correspond to known BP loci that were identified, and red points correspond to the newly identified BP loci. The result is based on the combined analysis of the genome-wide discovery analysis in Stage 1 cohorts (18.8 million variants) and focused/replication analysis in the Stage 2 cohorts for the selected 4,459 variants. The $-\log_{10}(p)$ of each SNP was plotted at the chromosomal location of each variant. The minimum p-values across smoking exposures, across tests, and across ancestry-specific and trans-ancestry results were used. **Figures S5-S8** show Manhattan plots separately for each smoking exposure and for three ancestry-specific results and trans-ancestry results.

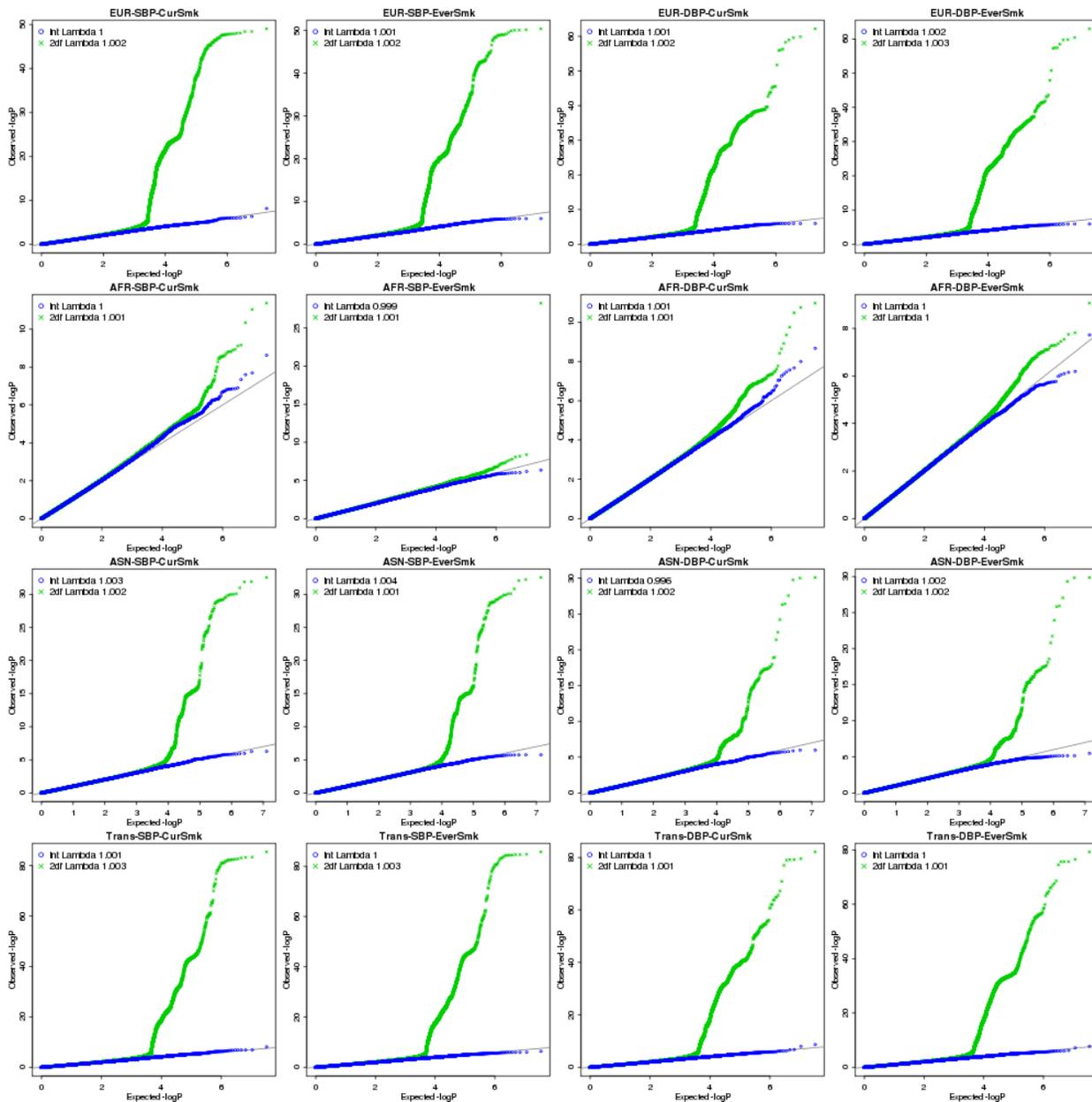


Figure S10: QQ plots of the combined (Stages 1 and 2) meta-analyses.

The combination of BP traits and smoking exposures were used: SBP-CurSmk (1st column), SBP-EverSmk (2nd column), DBP-CurSmk (3rd column), and DBP-EverSmk (4th column). Each plot displays p-values (blue circles for the 1 DF test of interaction effect; green crosses for the 2 DF joint test) and their genomic inflation factor. The p-values are based on the meta-analysis result to combine results from the genome-wide discovery analysis in Stage 1 cohorts (18.8 million variants) and focused/replication analysis in the Stage 2 cohorts for the selected 4,459 variants.

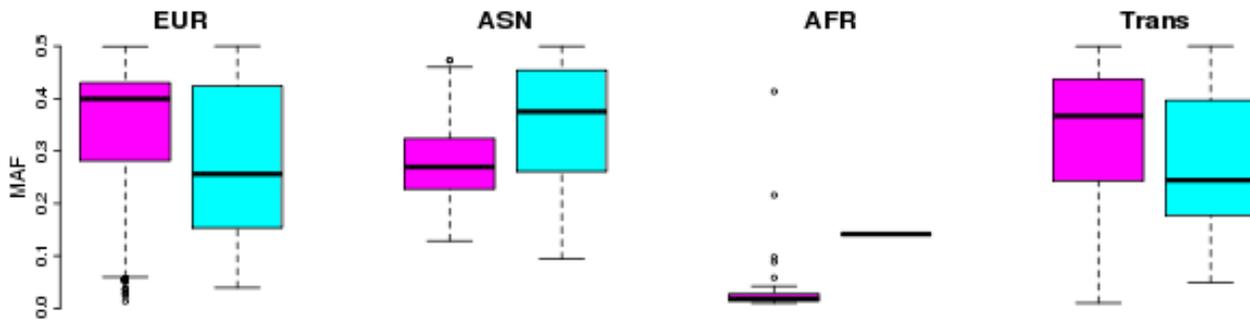


Figure S11: MAF distribution at genome-wide significant variants.

The magenta box is for variants at novel loci and the cyan box is for variants at known loci. There were only two variants at known loci (therefore, no cyan box) in AFR. MAF: minor allele frequency

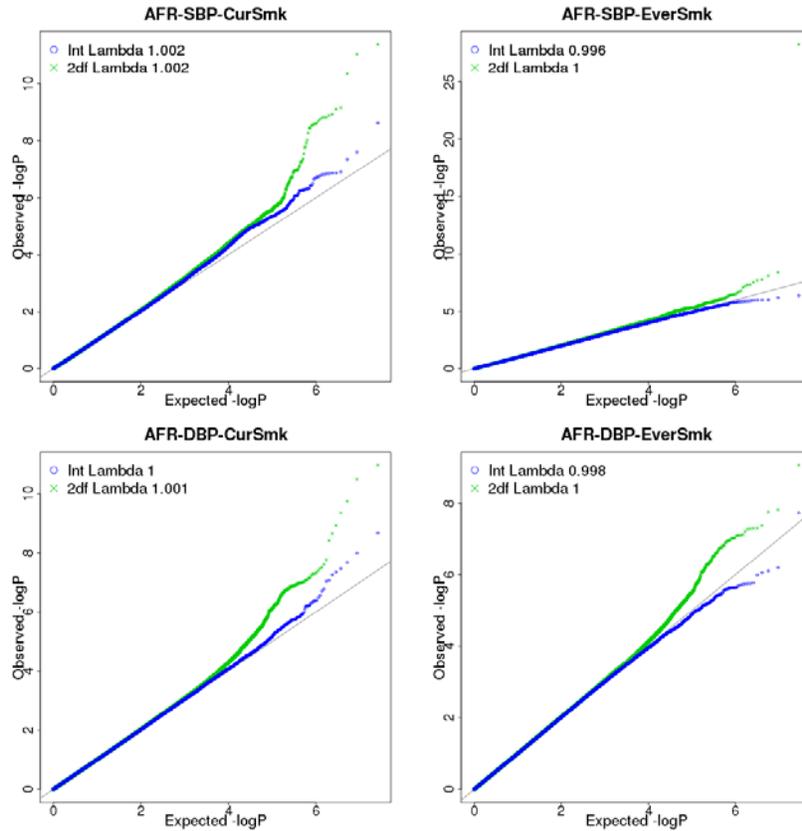
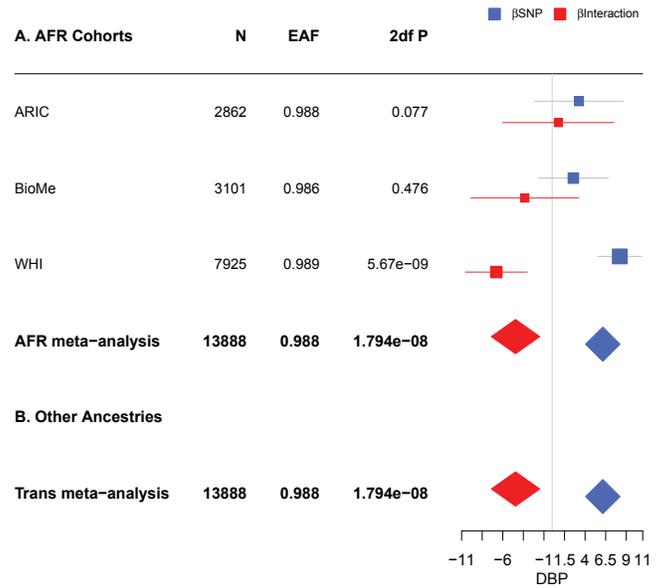


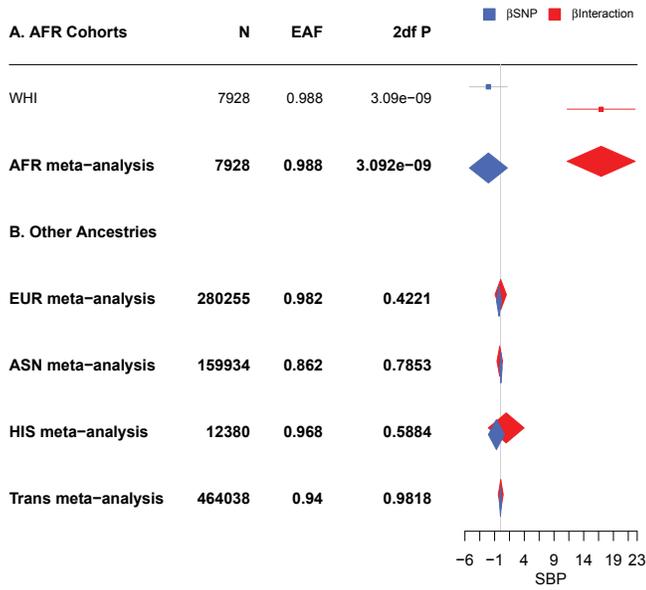
Figure S12: QQ plots of the combined (Stages 1 and 2) meta-analyses without known BP loci.

Each plot displays p-values (blue circles for the 1 DF test of interaction effect; green crosses for the 2 DF joint test) and their genomic inflation factor. The p-values are based on the meta-analysis result to combine results from the genome-wide discovery analysis in Stage 1 cohorts (18.8 million variants) and focused/replication analysis in the Stage 2 cohorts for the selected 4,459 variants. The variants within 1Mb around the known BP loci are excluded.

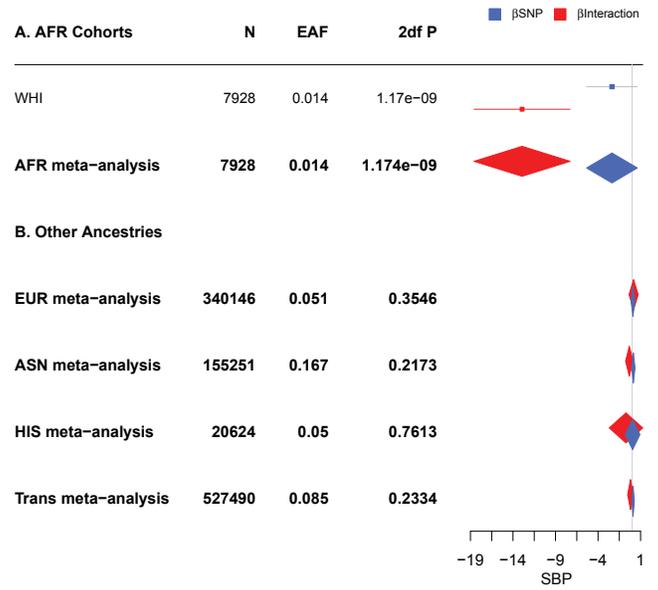
Effect of rs182662555 (T5-L3*) and its interaction with EverSmk on DBP



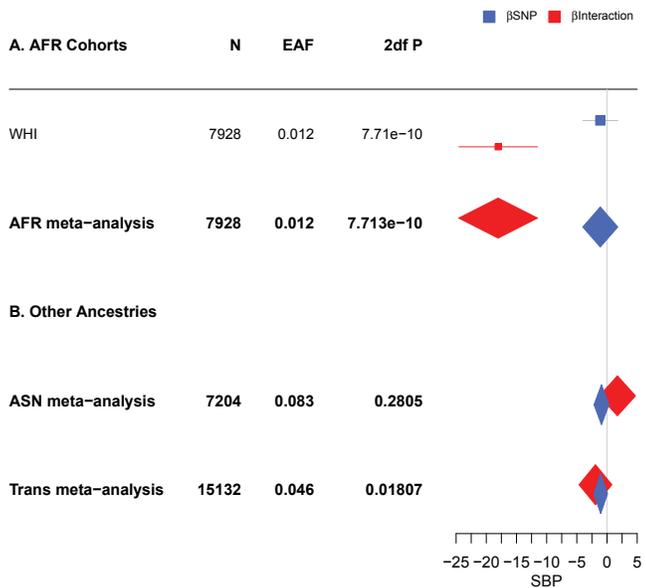
Effect of rs12135881 (T5-L1*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



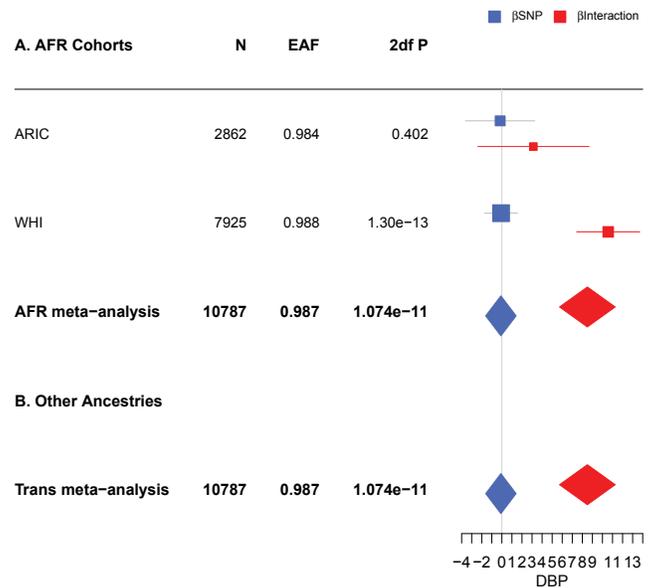
Effect of rs75247762 (T5-L4*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



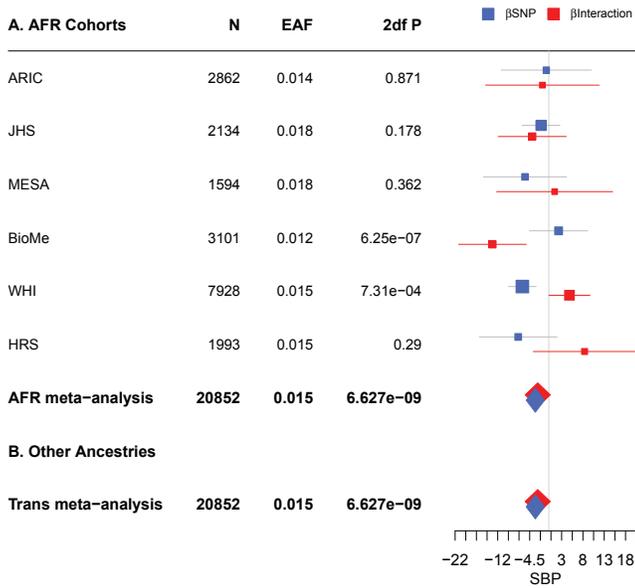
Effect of rs11809589 (T5-L2*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



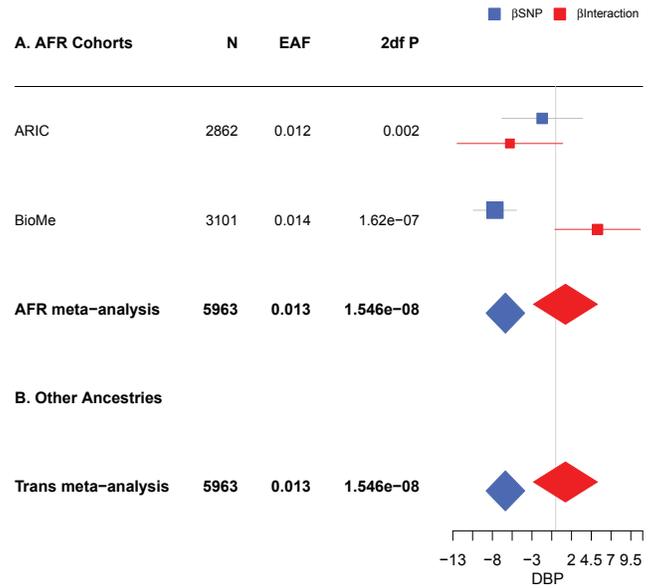
Effect of rs115234772 (T5-L5*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



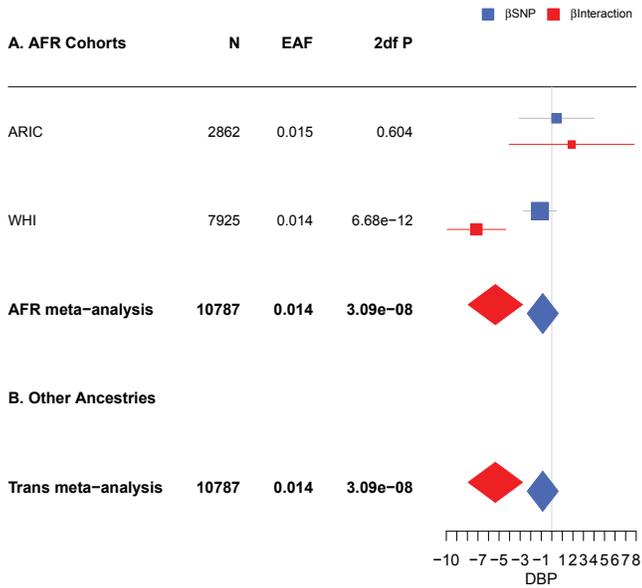
Effect of rs145162854 (T5-L6*) and its interaction with EverSmk on SBP



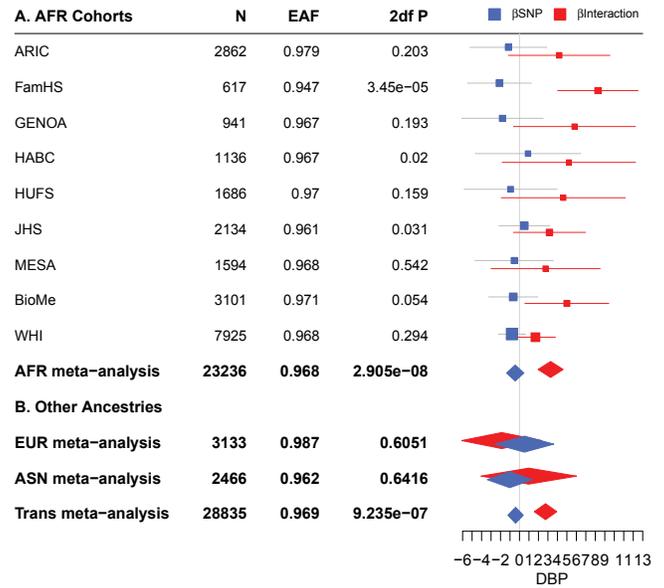
Effect of rs139963642 (T5-L9*) and its interaction with EverSmk on DBP



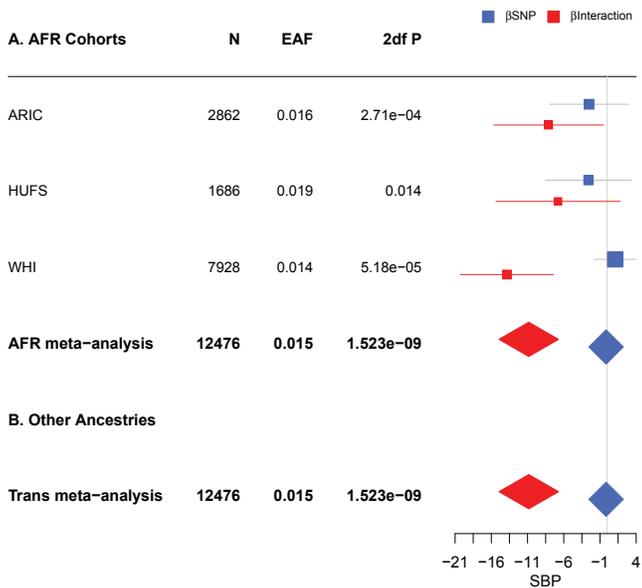
Effect of rs116008367 (T5-L7*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



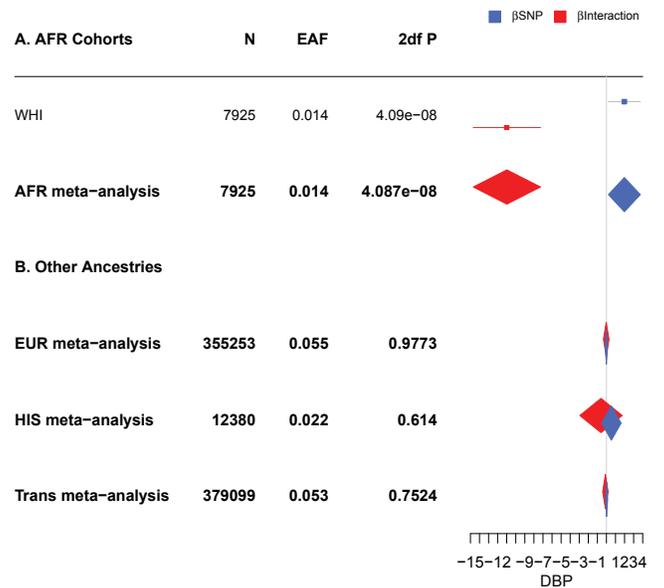
Effect of rs11931572 (T5-L10*) and its interaction with EverSmk on DBP



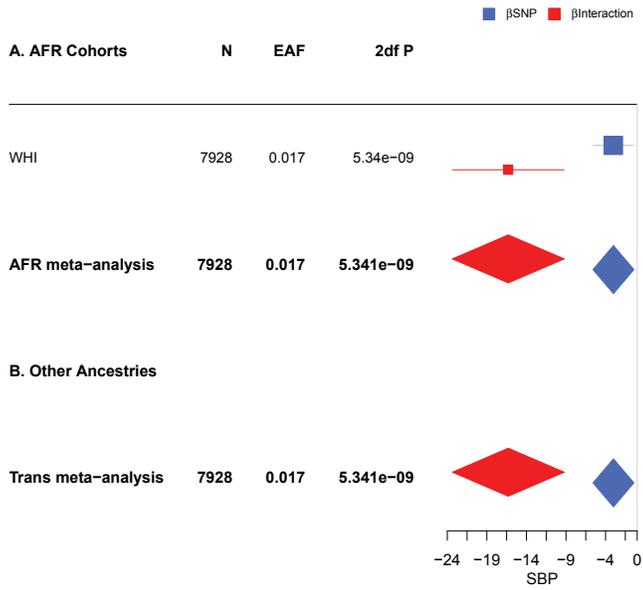
Effect of rs10166552 (T5-L8*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



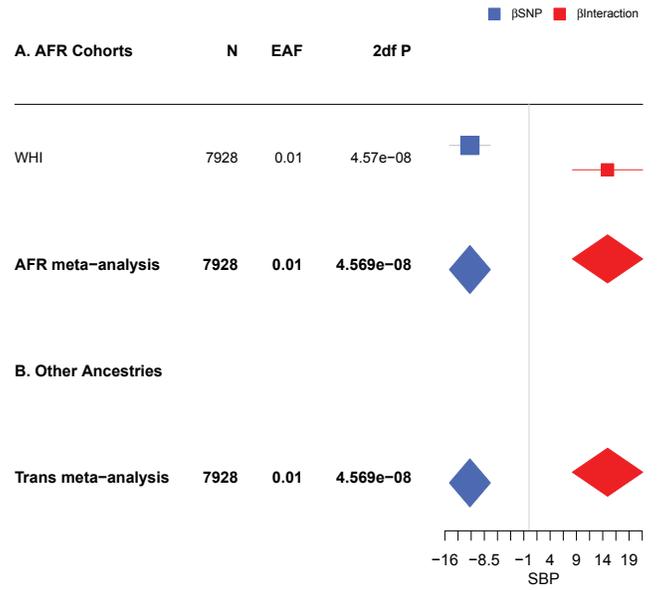
Effect of rs62319742 (T5-L11*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



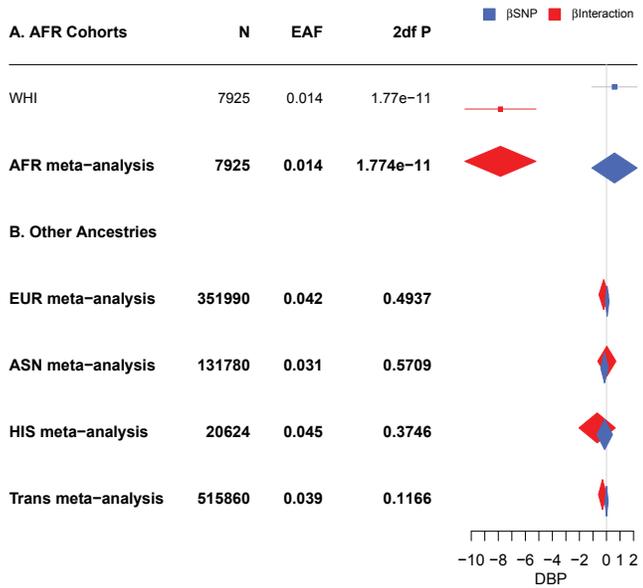
Effect of rs140543491 (T5-L12*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



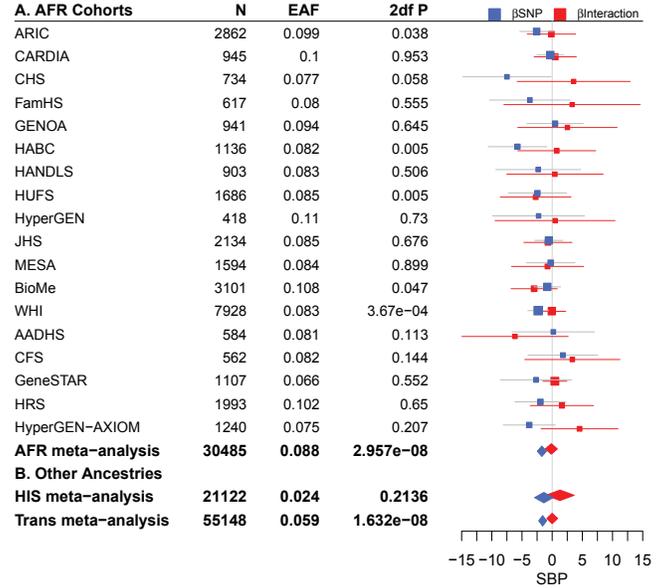
Effect of rs58806982 (T5-L15*) and its interaction with EverSmk on SBP



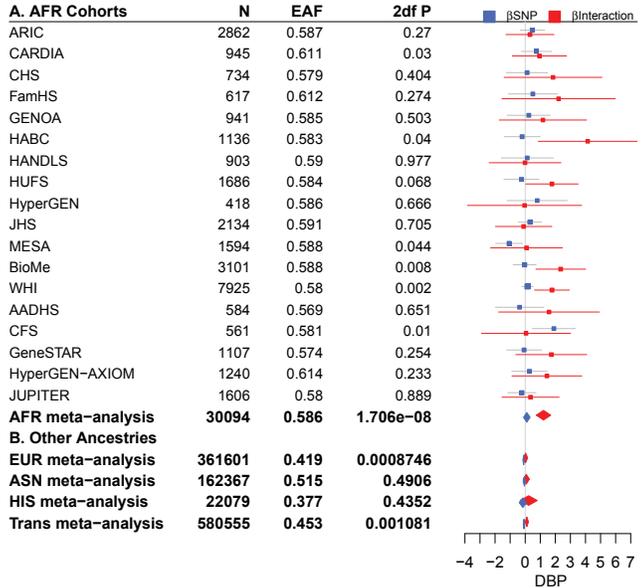
Effect of rs148387718 (T5-L13*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



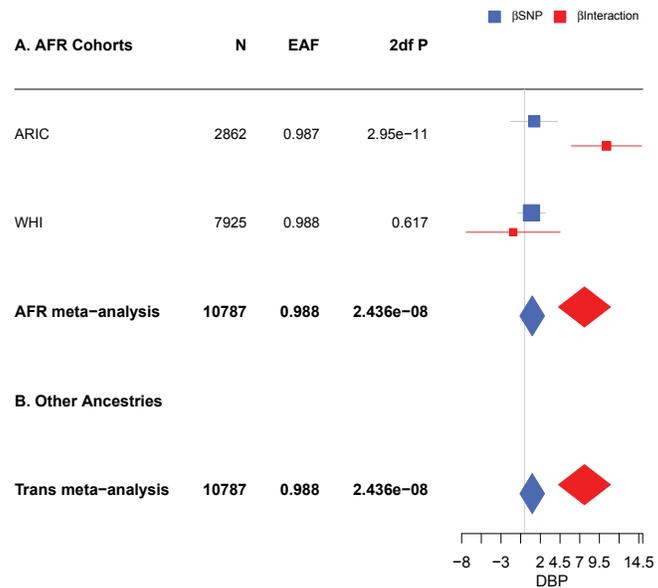
Effect of rs76987554 (T5-L16*) and its interaction with EverSmk on SBP



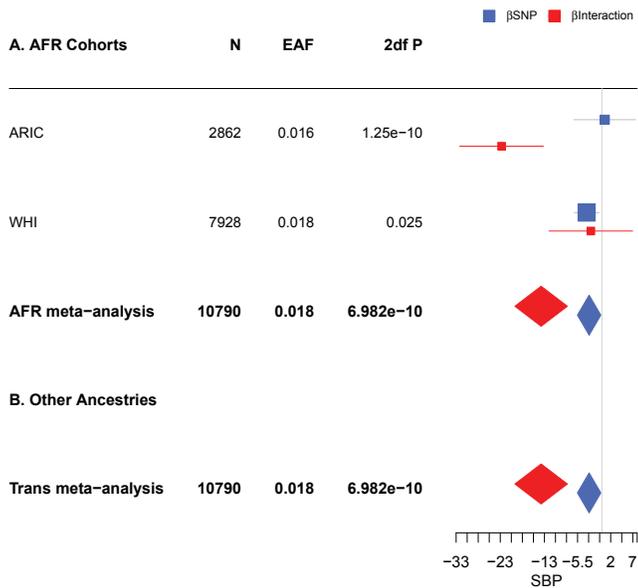
Effect of rs9348895 (T5-L14*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



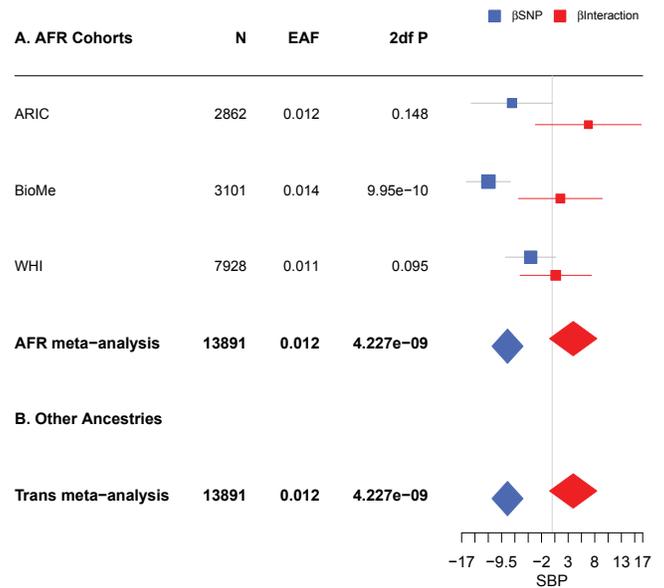
Effect of rs112140754 (T5-L17*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



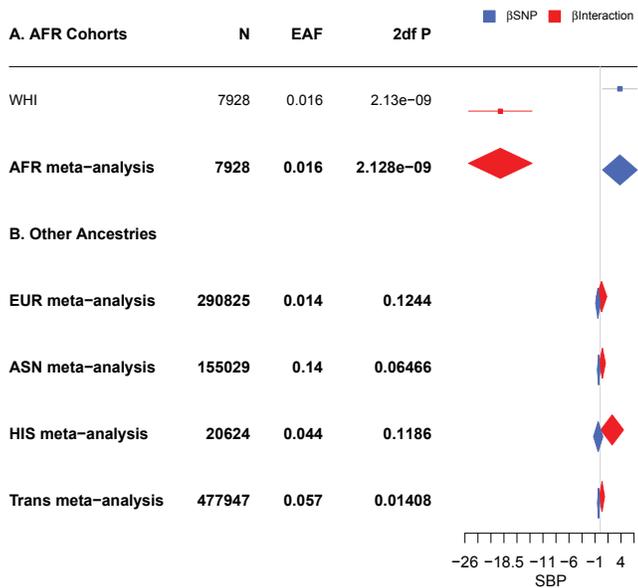
Effect of rs116196735 (T5-L18*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



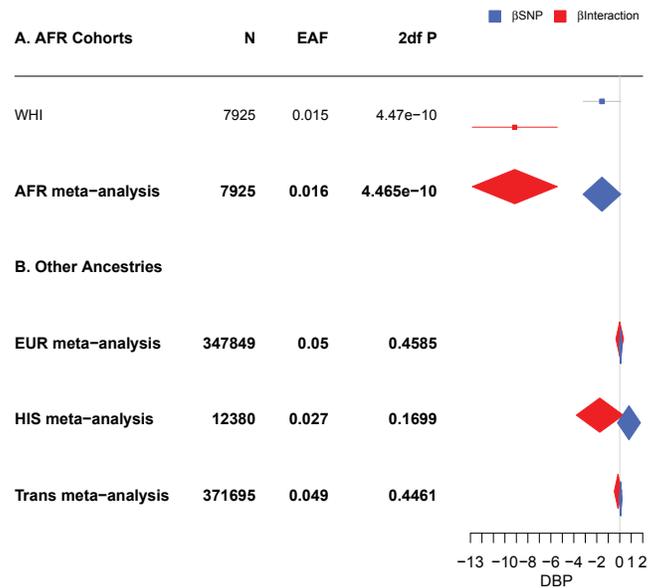
Effect of rs192642798 (T5-L21*) and its interaction with EverSmk on SBP



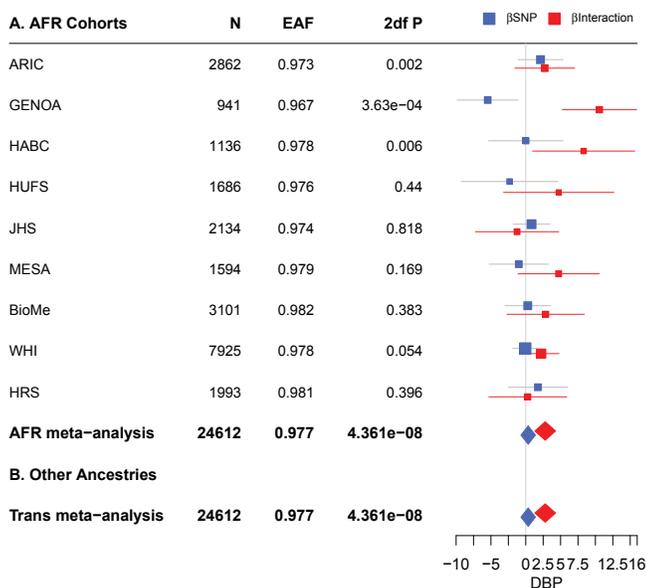
Effect of rs74701635 (T5-L19*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



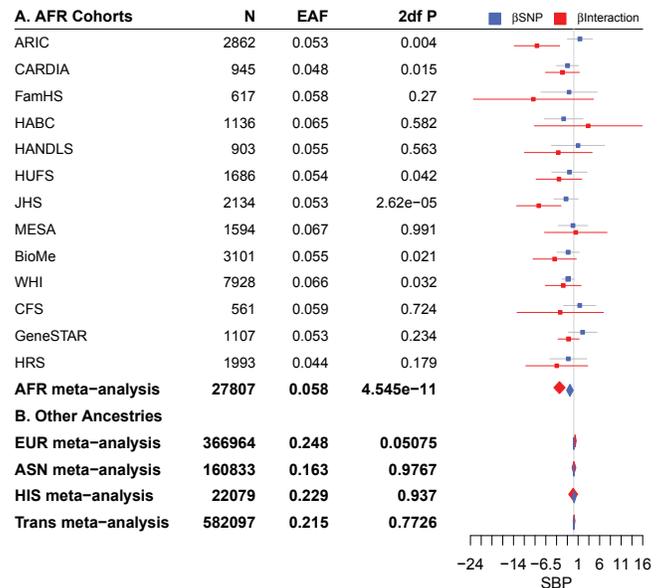
Effect of rs76726877 (T5-L22*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



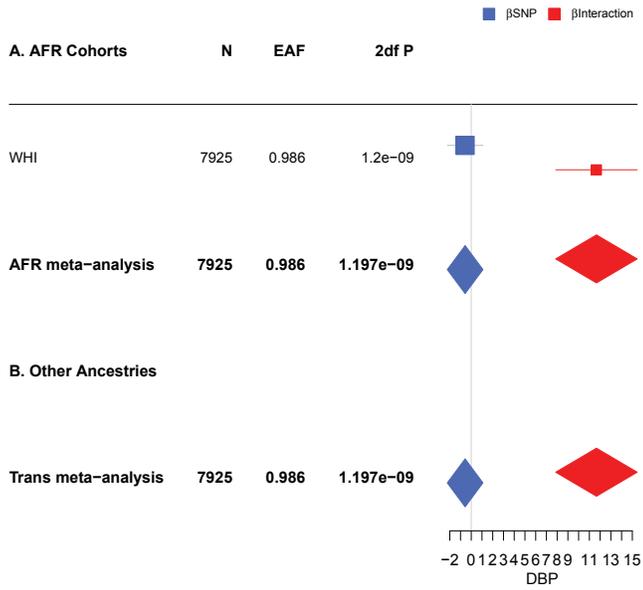
Effect of rs146250839 (T5-L20*) and its interaction with EverSmk on DBP



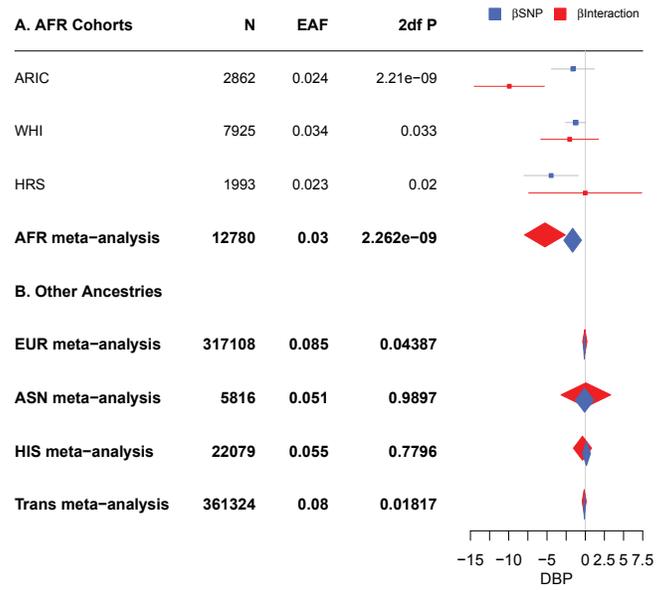
Effect of rs11599481 (T5-L23*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



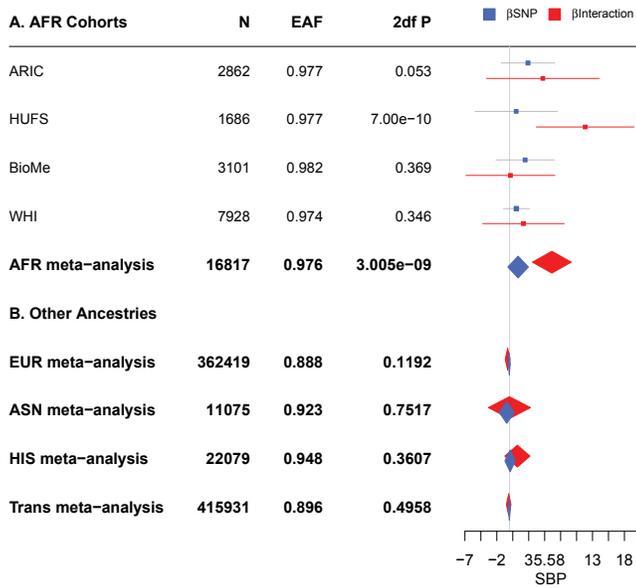
Effect of rs148772934 (T5-L24*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



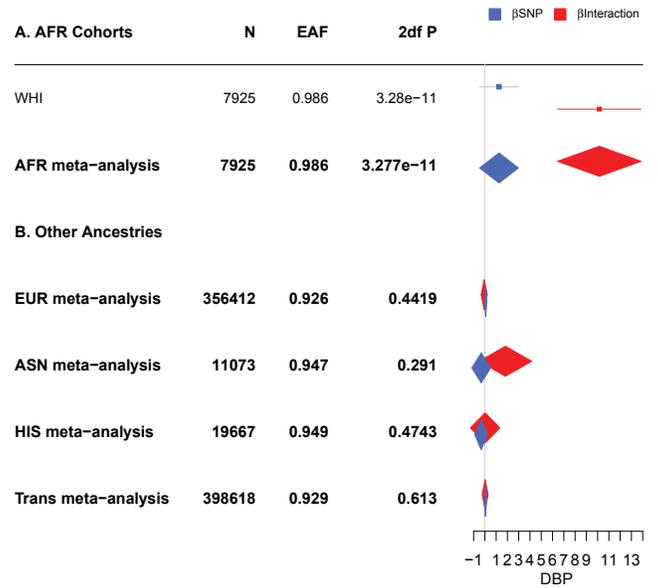
Effect of rs78103586 (T5-L27*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



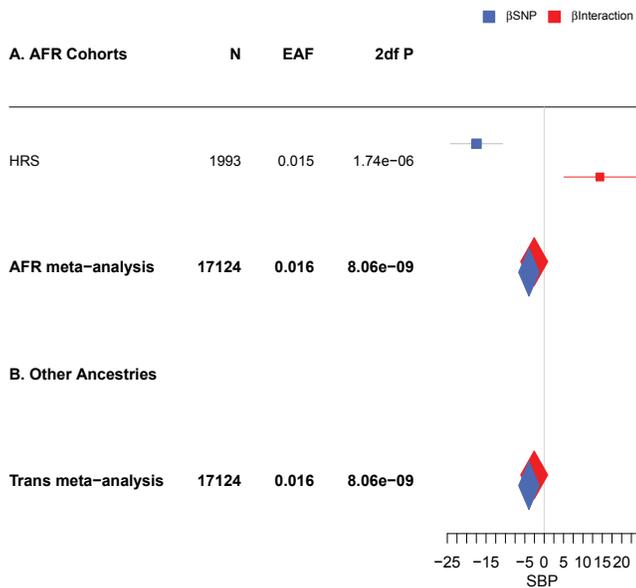
Effect of rs11601370 (T5-L25) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



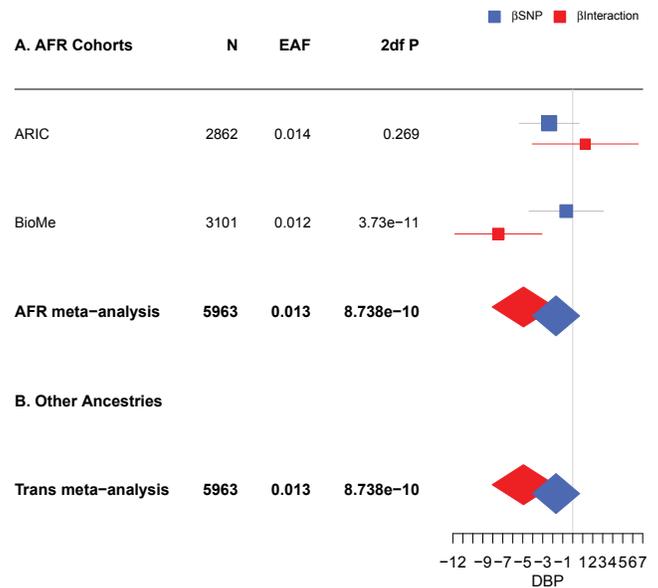
Effect of rs61935525 (T5-L28*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



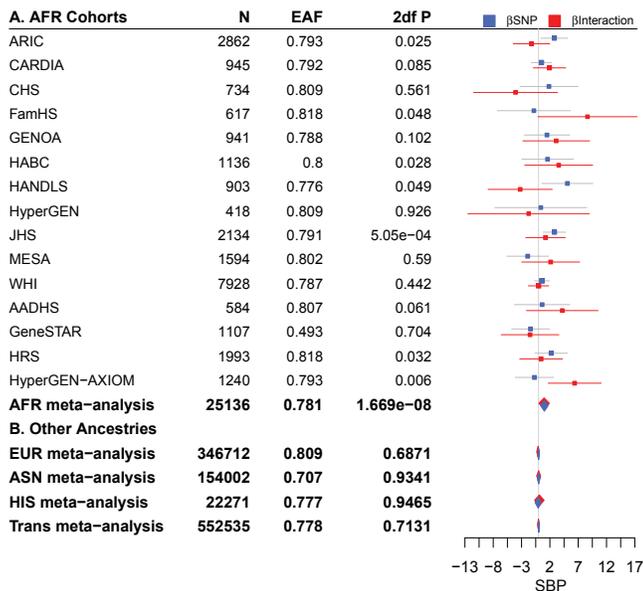
Effect of rs74601585 (T5-L26*) and its interaction with EverSmk on SBP



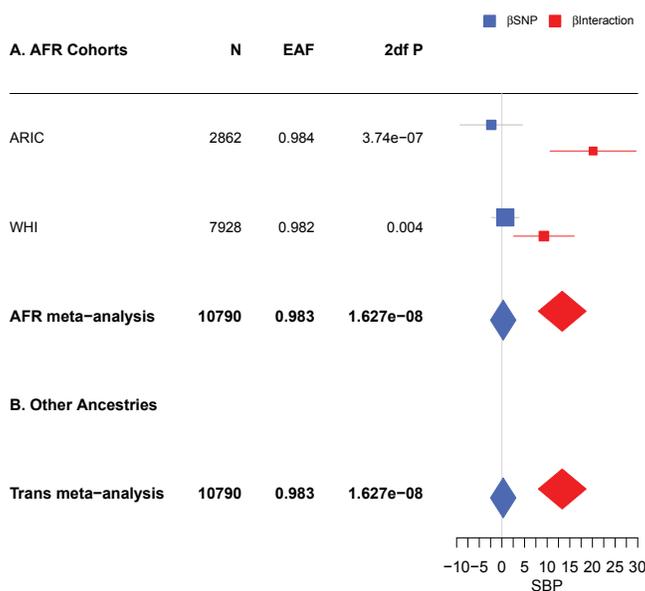
Effect of rs187852559 (T5-L29*) and its interaction with EverSmk on DBP



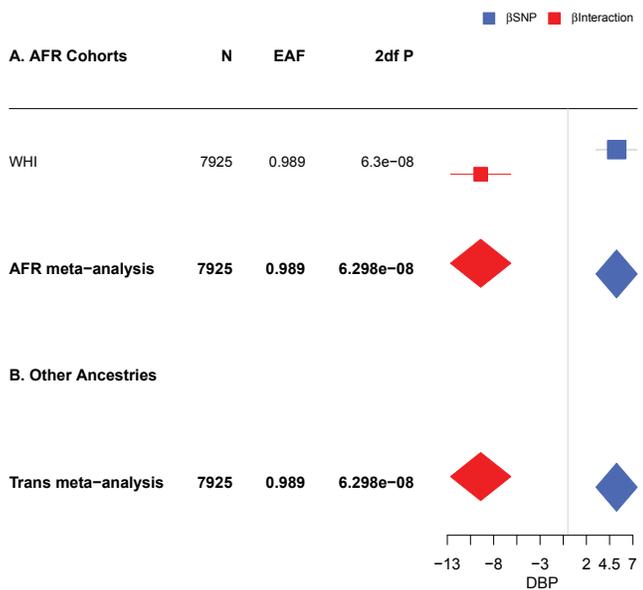
Effect of rs1257310 (T5-L30*) and its interaction with EverSmk on SBP



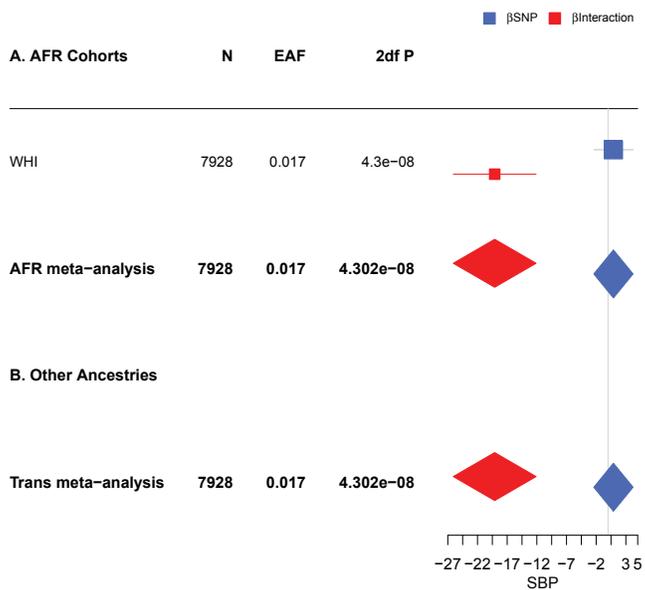
Effect of rs9965695 (T5-L33*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



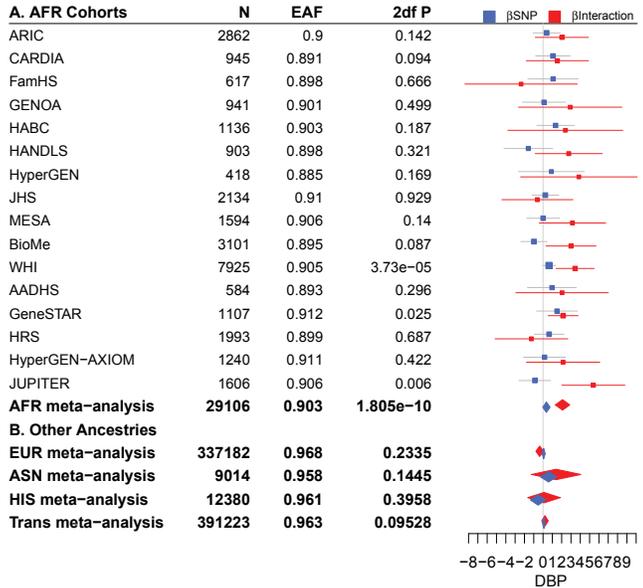
Effect of rs148753653 (T5-L31) and its interaction with EverSmk on DBP



Effect of rs10405764 (T5-L34*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP



Effect of rs138973557 (T5-L32*) and its interaction with CurSmk on DBP



Effect of rs115893283 (T5-L35*) and its interaction with CurSmk on SBP

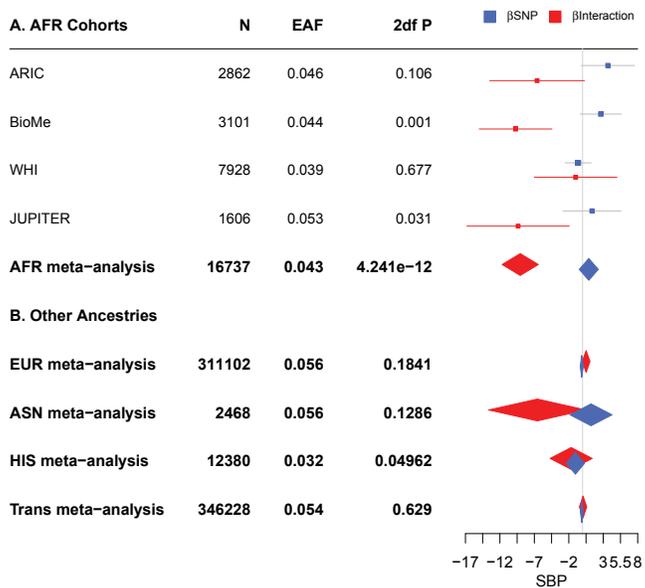
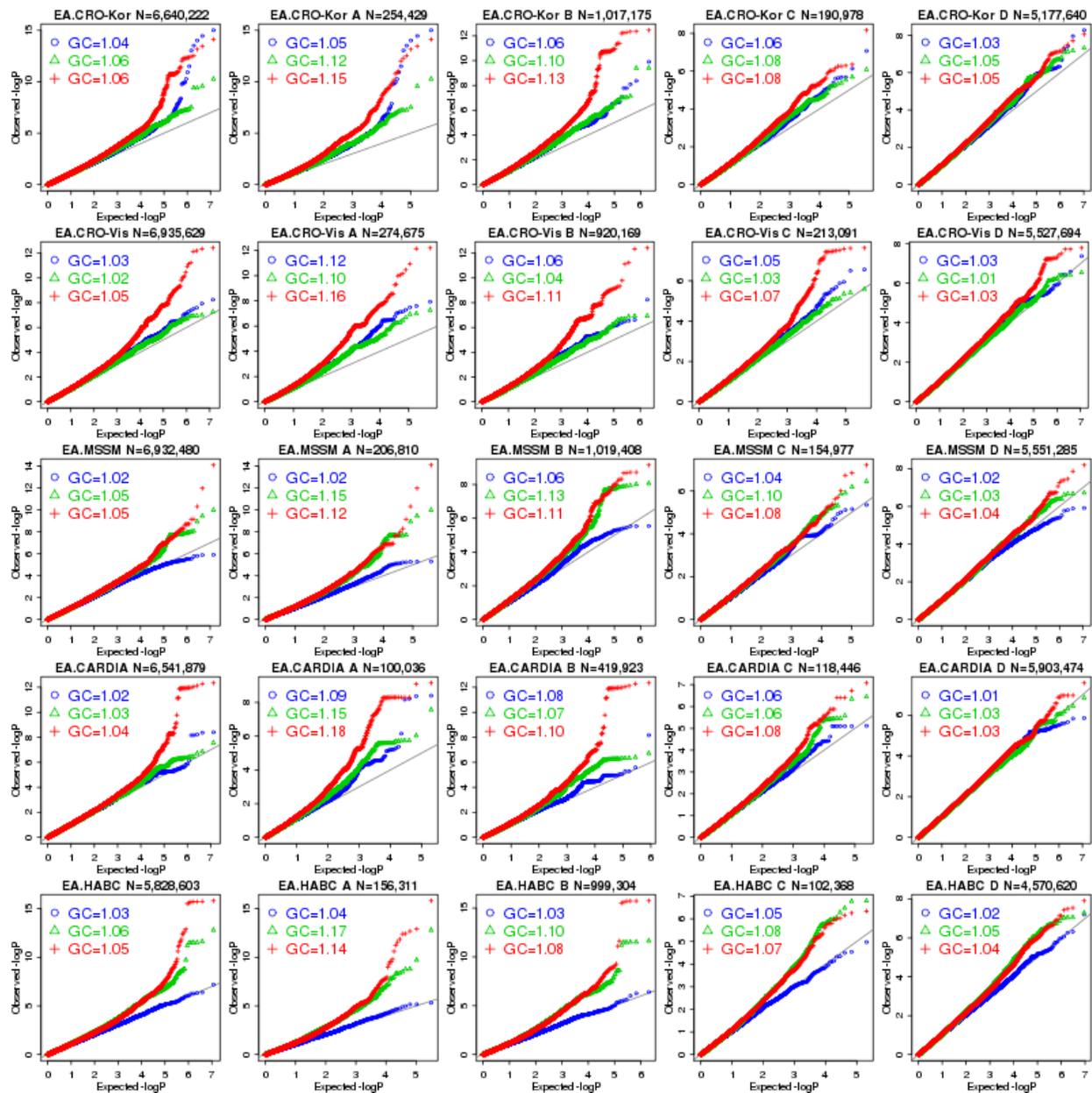
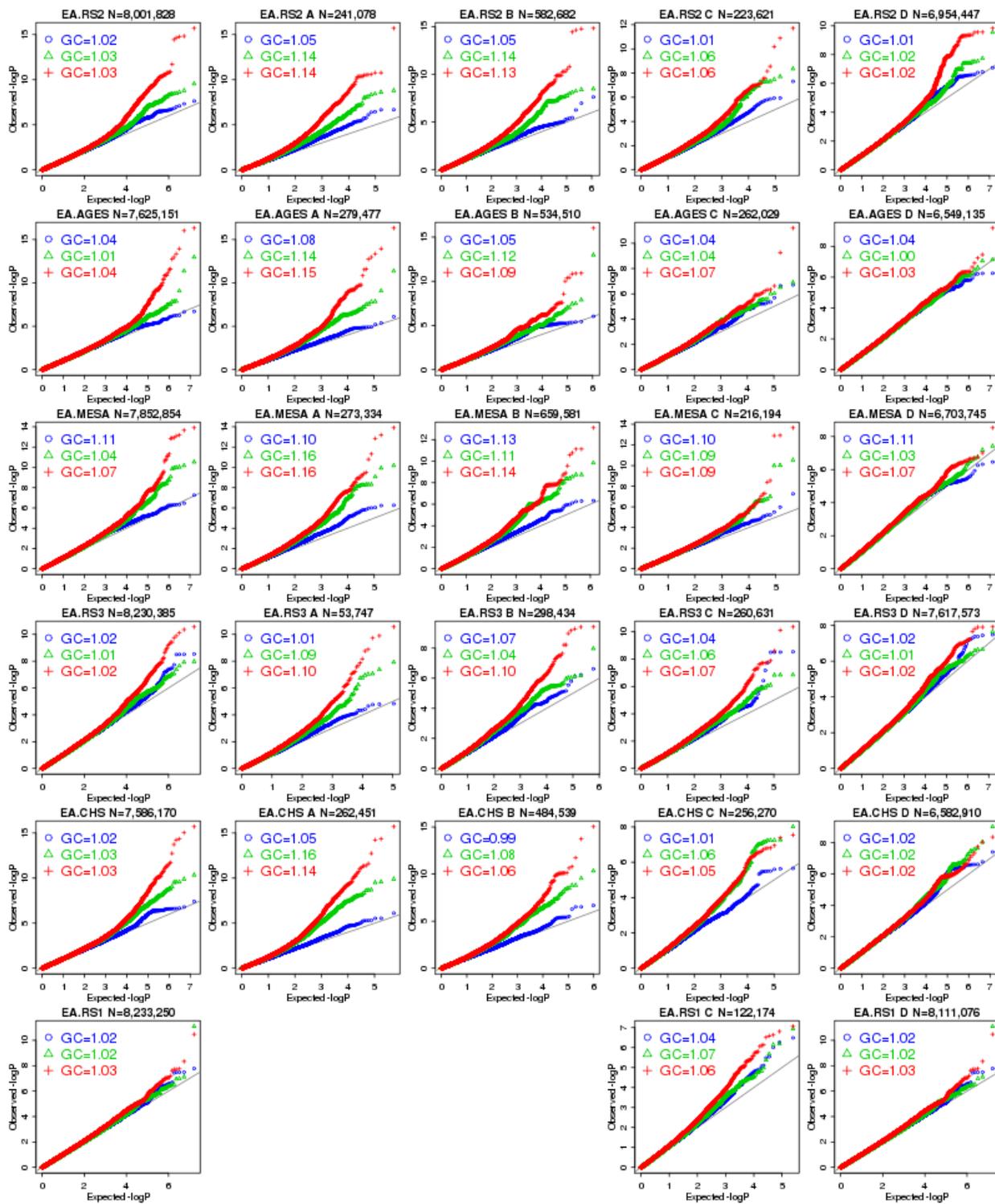
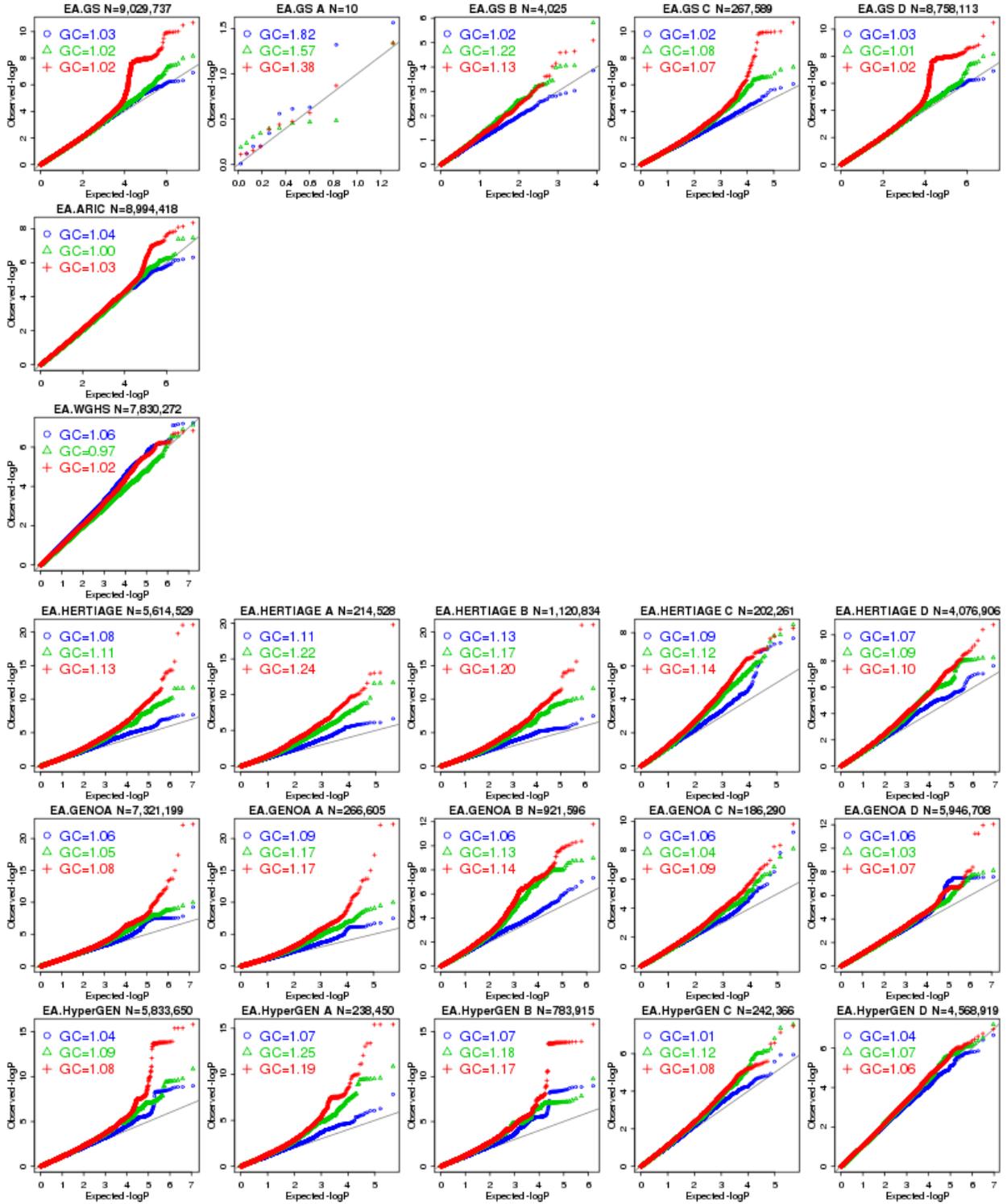


Figure S14: Cohort-specific QQ Plots in European ancestry

The first column in the QQ plots below is based on the first filter $\min(\text{MAC0}, \text{MAC1}) \geq 10$ (area A+B+C+D, see Supplemental Notes: More details on the Quality Control). The next 4 columns show QQ plots for the variants that fall into each section (A-D). Within each QQ plot, blue circles are based on the test of main effect, green triangles are based on the test of interaction effect, and the red crosses are based on the joint test of main and interaction effects.







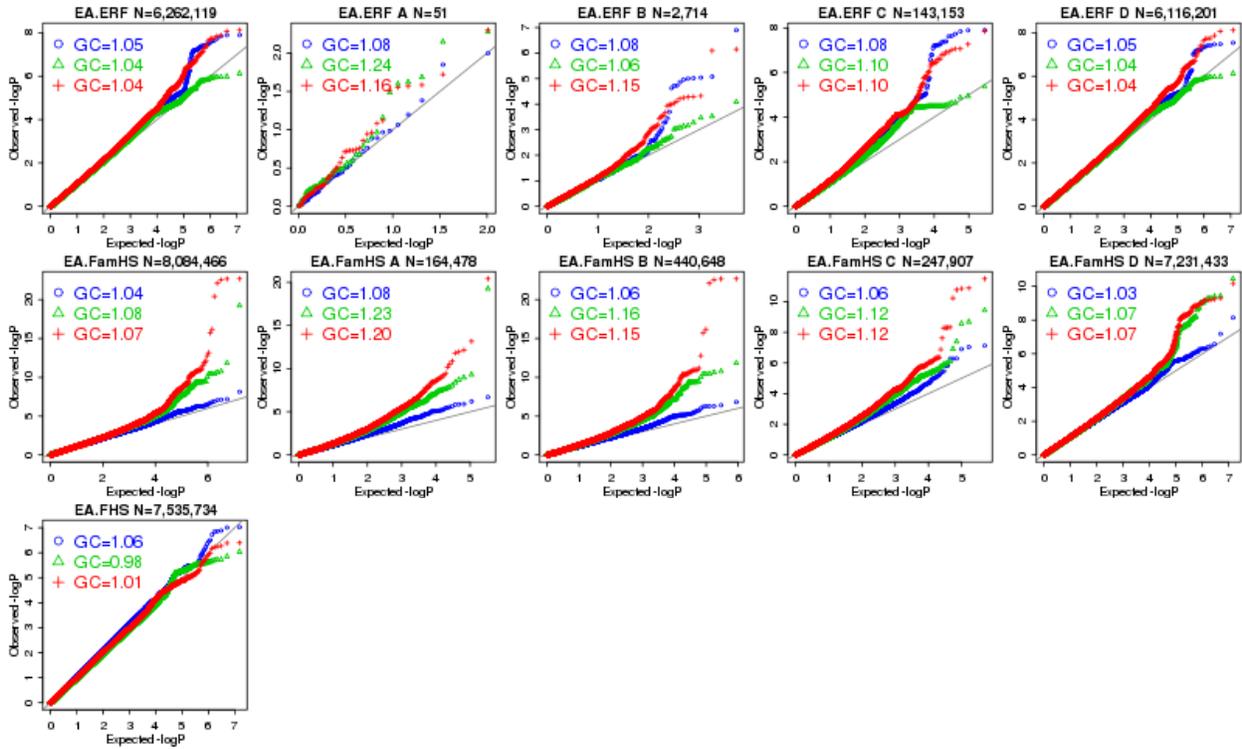
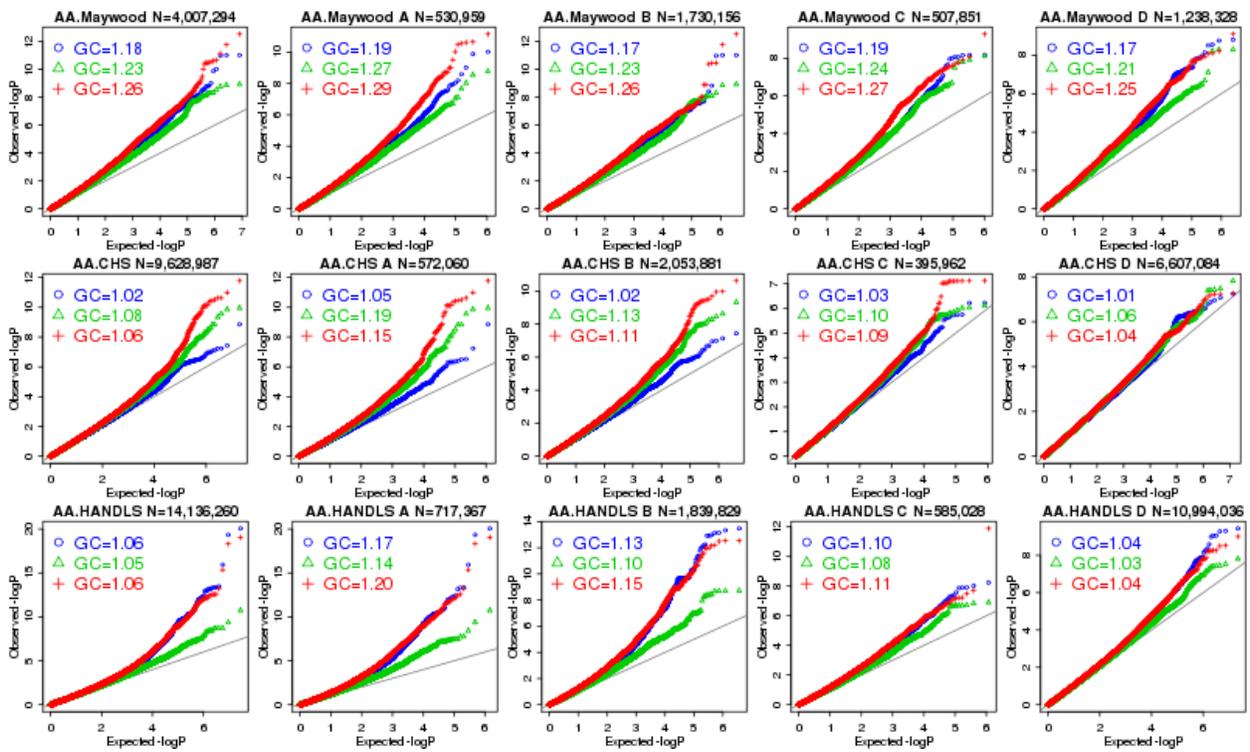
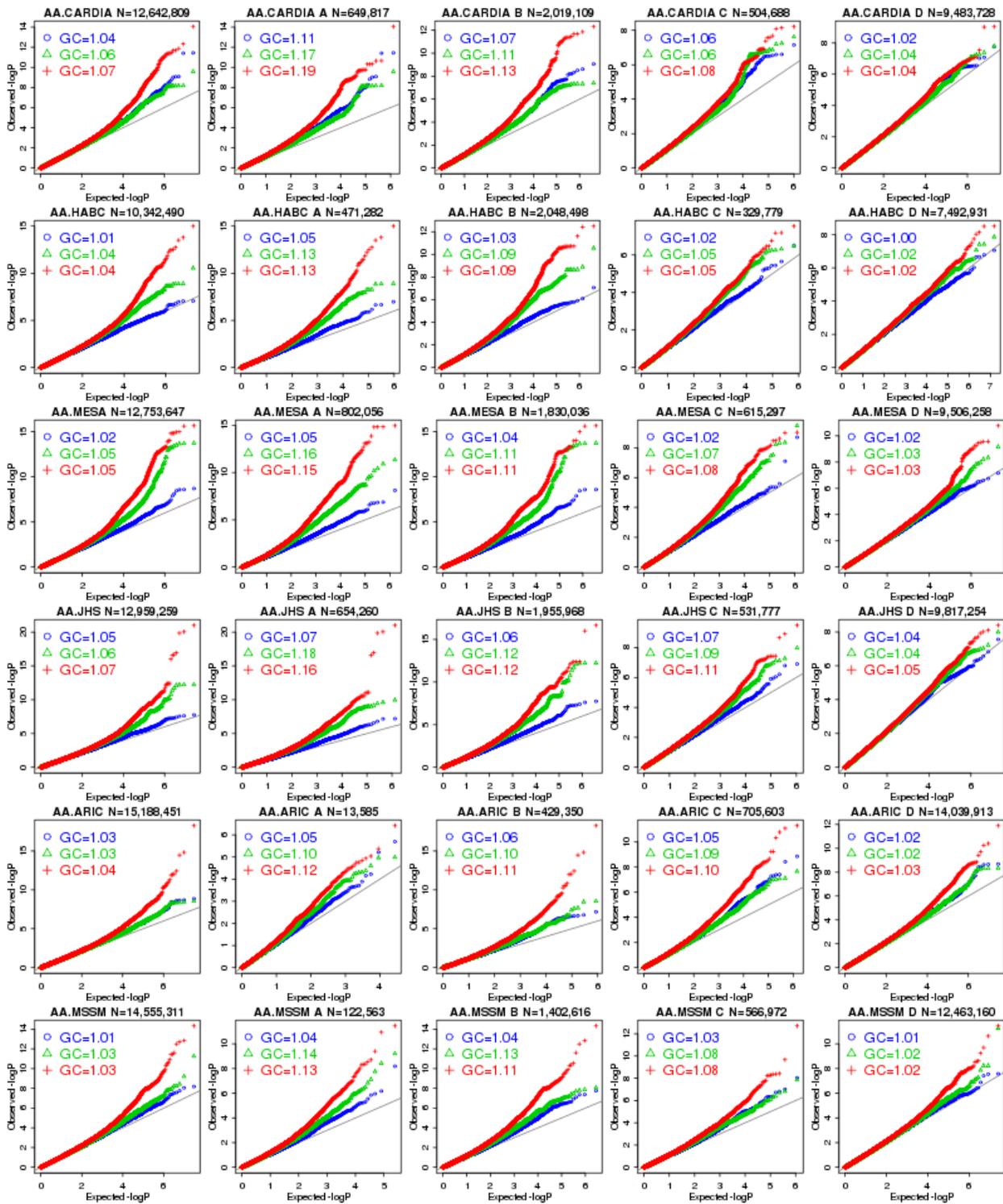


Figure S15: Cohort-specific QQ Plots in African ancestry





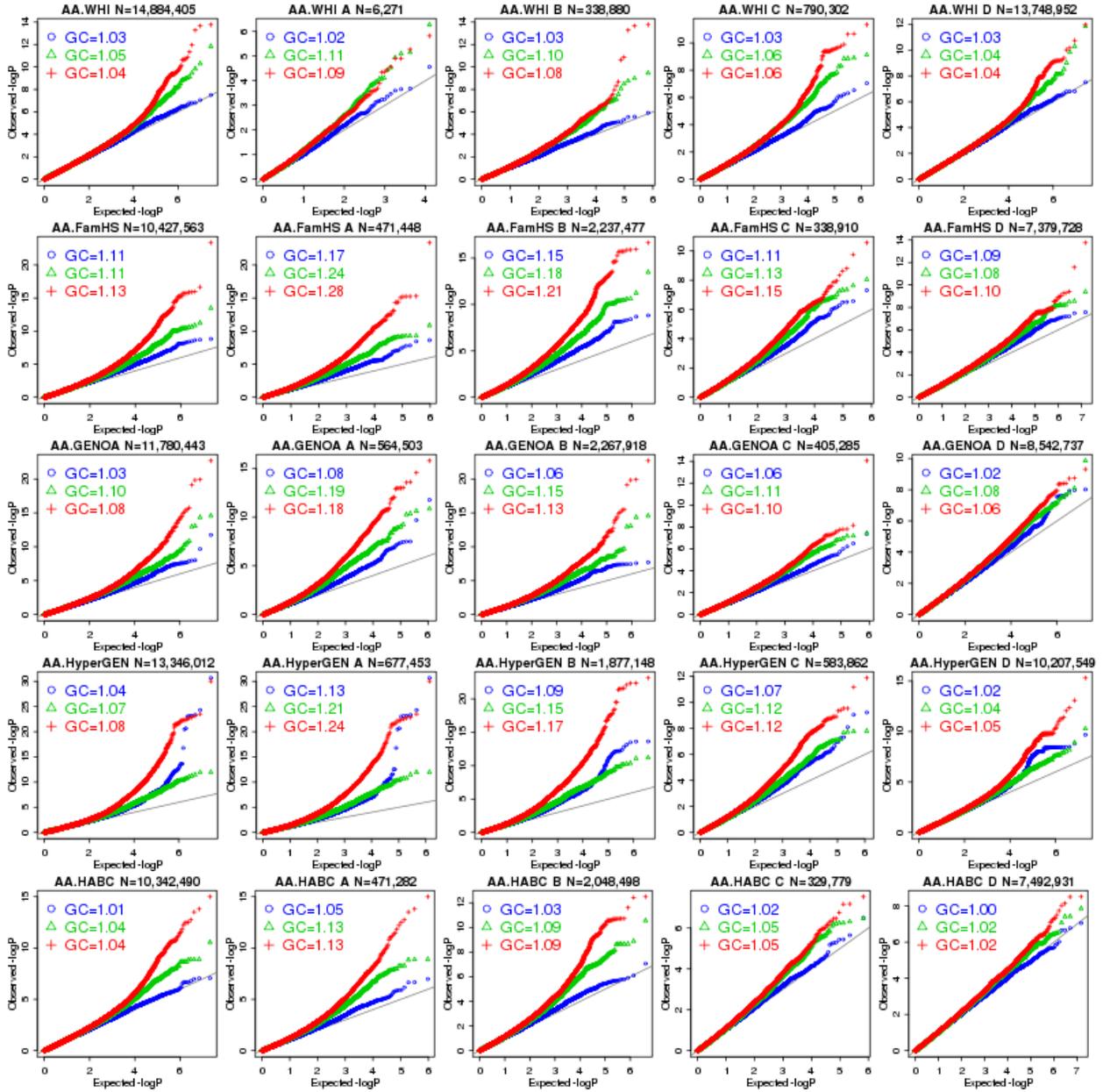
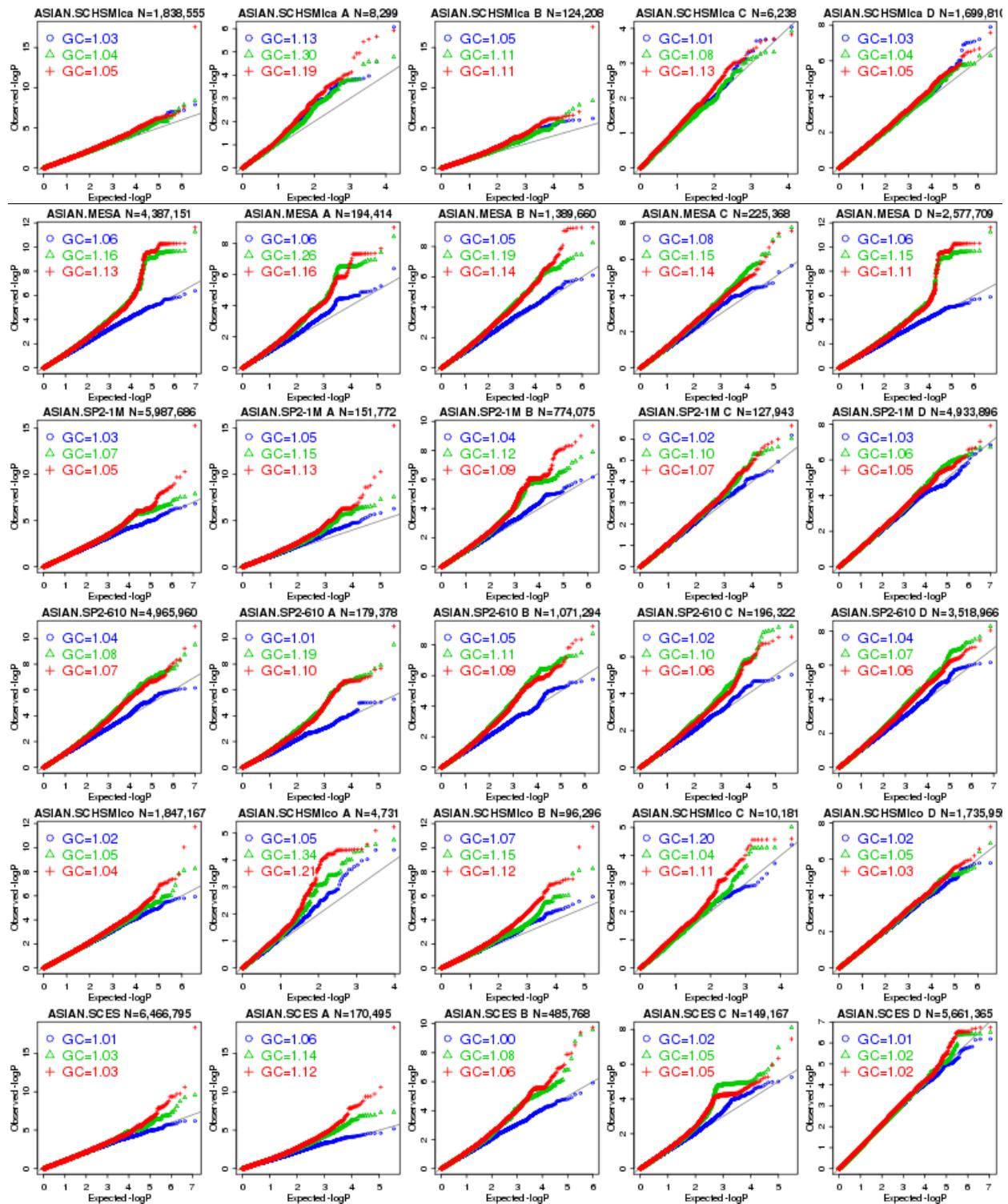


Figure S16: Cohort-specific QQ Plots in Asian ancestry



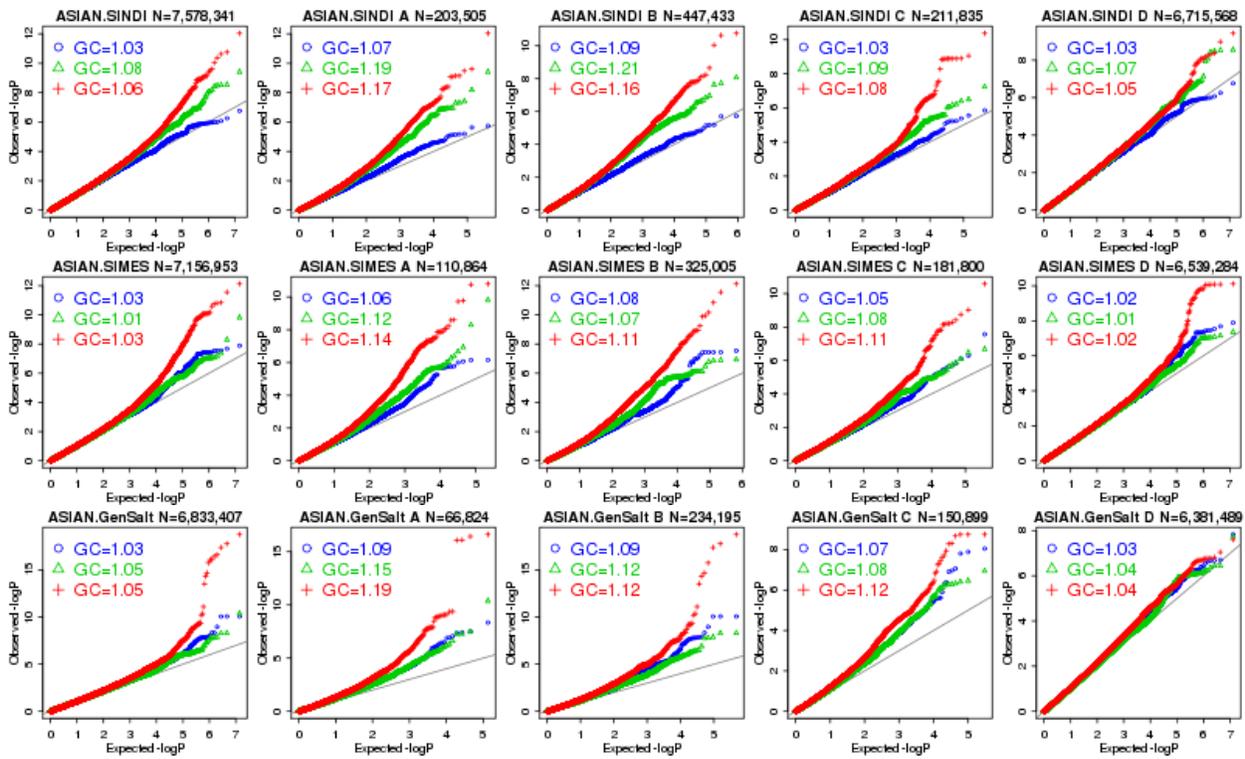


Figure S17: Cohort-specific QQ Plots in Hispanic ancestry

